

مكتبة الملك الحسين



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

China demands U.S. apology

DUBAI (R) — China on Saturday demanded a public apology and financial compensation from the United States after an inspection showed a Chinese ship was not carrying banned chemical weapons materials for Iran. The Yihue was shadowed by the U.S. Navy for more than three weeks and denied entry to Gulf ports because of Washington's charges it was carrying such a cargo. "The Chinese side has every reason to demand that the U.S. side apologise in public, compensate its loss and pledge not to create such incident in the future," Chinese Foreign Ministry official Shu Zu Kang said in a statement sent to Reuters. A copy of the inspection report obtained by Reuters said: "The complete inspection of all the containers aboard the Yihue showed conclusively that the two chemicals (thiodiglycol and thionyl chloride) were not among the ship's cargo. The U.S. government undertakes to inform the governments of the countries which the Yihue had been scheduled to call (on) of the results of this inspection and to seek to ensure a smooth entry of the ship into the ports concerned to unload its cargo."

Colombia seizes U.S. plane packed with dynamite

SAN ANDRES, COLOMBIA, (AFP) — Colombian authorities seized a U.S. plane packed with three tonnes of dynamite bound for Ecuador and arrested two U.S. citizens and a Dutch man on board, officials said Saturday. The C-47 had taken off from Miami, Florida, and had stopped to refuel on Colombia's San Andres Island in the Caribbean when airport inspectors discovered the cargo. The aircraft's final destination was Guayaquil, Ecuador. Local prosecutors are investigating the dynamite shipment.

Volume 17 Number 5401 AMMAN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1993, RABIE' AL-AWWAL 18, 1414 Price: 150 Fils

King extends unequivocal support for Israeli-Palestinian agreement

Arafat has conveyed 'full package' of proposal

Accord begins a process leading to implementation of 242 and is the decision of the sole, legitimate representative of Palestinians

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday extended unequivocal support for the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on Gaza and Jericho, saying it is a "serious comprehensive attempt" towards achieving just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Describing the agreement as part of a process leading to the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 and 338, King Hussein said the agreement was "a very serious movement forward."

King Hussein told reporters that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Friday provided him with the full details of the agreement, which the PLO reached with Israel in secret negotiations with the Israeli government in Norway. "Yesterday I received what I might have expected to receive a little earlier from the Palestinian leadership and President (Yasser) Arafat. A complete package of all that has been reached so far and in detail," King Hussein told a press conference. "I believe that what I received suggests to me that it is a very serious comprehensive attempt on both sides involved in this negotiation to move forward towards the establishment of a just and durable peace," the King said. "I've read (the details of the accord) thoroughly and can only say what I said earlier: that our position is one of support for the independent Palestinian position and for the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," the King said. King Hussein said the Israeli-Palestinian deal cannot be described as a Gaza-Jericho option accord because, based on information he has, it is part of a process leading to the implementation of Resolution 242. "So I will only re-emphasise our full support for the (PLO)," he said.

Arafat appreciates support

PALESTINIAN leader Yasser Arafat Saturday warmly welcomed King Hussein's support for the self-rule agreement. "We highly appreciate the stand of full support announced by His Majesty King Hussein," Mr. Arafat said in a statement reported by the Palestinian news agency Wafa. "This is a vivid expression of the deepness of relations which continue and are reinforced between the two brotherly peoples."

King Hussein said the Oslo accord does not impose on Jordan any role as initially understood, but invites it to participate in the discussions of issues dealing with the human dimension and other problems, particularly refugees. And "this is perfectly alright. It is an invitation," King Hussein said. Jordan initially understood that its role was already agreed upon by the Israelis and the PLO and vehemently rejected "any agreements to which it is not a signatory."

He said Jordan provided the Palestinians with an "umbrella" to the peace talks in order to enable them to represent the Palestinian people in negotiating their future. But "once and when mutual recognition occurs, and I believe this is possible, between the Israelis and the Palestinians, then probably there would be no need for this umbrella to be there."

Jordan, Austria discuss peace process, relations

King honours President Klesstil with medal

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and Austrian President Thomas Klesstil Saturday discussed the latest developments in the Middle East and Jordanian-Austrian relations in all aspects, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday receives Austrian President Thomas Klesstil upon his arrival here on a two-day state visit (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

Both leaders expressed keen interest and concern to ensure that the 22-month-old Middle East peace process comes to fruition, the agency said. The King paid tribute to Austria's role in the international scene, particularly in defending human rights. Vienna hosted the first international forum on human rights in several decades in June this year.

King Hussein conferred upon President Klesstil the Al Nahda Medal. The Austrian president, who arrived here Saturday evening on a state visit, was the guest of honour along with a delegation

accompanying him at a dinner hosted by the King and attended by senior officials. President Klesstil was received upon arrival by King Hussein. The two-day visit aims at enhancing relations and mutual cooperation between the two countries, Petra said.

King, Assad exchange views

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had a telephone conversation Saturday and exchanged views on issues of mutual concern and Arab issues, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The agency said "the new developments in Arab issues" were discussed.

King cancels China visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has decided to cancel a trip to China later this month because of developments in the Middle East, a spokesman for the royal palace said on Saturday. The King was to visit China from Sept. 13 to 16 and travel to Thailand and Singapore, the spokesman said.

Crown Prince returns from Europe

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned to Jordan Saturday evening after a visit to Europe. Prince Hassan was received by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal Ben Ali Hussein, Prince Ghazi Ben Muhammad, and Prince Ali Ben Nayef, as well as Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Speaker of the Senate Ahmad Al-Lawzi, Chief of the Royal Court Khalid Al Karaki and other officials.

Al Nahdah gets Cabinet approval

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers has given its consent to the publication of a political daily newspaper in Amman under the name Al Nahdah. The new daily, which will be published by the Jordanian Arab Company for Press and Publication and Distribution, will be headed by Mohammad Daoudieh as chief editor.

Arafat expected in Syria soon

DAMASCUS (R) — Yasser Arafat is expected to hold talks in Syria soon on the Palestinians' interim self-rule deal with Israel, Palestinian sources said Saturday. One source said the visit would be "the most important leg in an Arab tour" by Mr. Arafat.

Algeria gets new cabinet

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian Prime Minister Redha Malek Saturday formed a 25-member government after 15 days of political consultations, official sources announced here Saturday.

King: Israel-PLO accord has no bearing on elections, which will be held as scheduled

No government 'deal' with anyone on equal-opportunity polls

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Developments in the Middle East peace process will have no impact on Jordan's plans to hold parliamentary elections on Nov. 8, His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday. The King was answering a question during a press conference on the possibility of many Palestinians returning to the West Bank in the wake of the recent breakthrough in Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. Many of the Palestinians who fled the West Bank when Israel occupied the territory in the 1967 war are Jordanian nationals and are registered voters. The question itself seemed to have stemmed from assertions from certain Jordanian "nationalist" parties that they could fare better in the elections if the polls were postponed and held after Palestinians who might want to return to the West Bank did so. "In regard to elections, there is nothing new at this stage that I can add," said the King. "Jordanians are members of one family regardless of their origins. We hope that the elections will take place at the appointed time to reflect our commitment to preserve and build on democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights."

He added: "I hope it will be an example for others: The way it is conducted reflecting also the sense of responsibility of the Jordanian citizen at this stage, in terms of the critical position... to create something new in their area." In the same context of the possibility of Palestinians living in Jordan being able to return to the West Bank, the King said it was not clear yet how this issue will be addressed but affirmed that it was an issue that should be dealt with in the negotiations that are expected to follow the recent agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (see separate story). PLO Executive Committee member and Information chief Yasser Abed Rabbo said in Tunis Friday that the agreement would allow up to 800,000 refugees who were forced out of the West Bank in 1967 to return home. But, Israeli leaders, including Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur rejected the suggestion.

"That is not the way I read the text" of the Israel-PLO agreement, Mr. Peres said. According to Mr. Gur, "it is the worldwide view of the government that the right of return is unacceptable in this accord and will not allow any clause permitting refugees to return and flood Israel." Informed Palestinian sources said, however, that the PLO was insisting on including a clause in the agreement to make it clear that the issue of the refugees returning home would be tackled soon. "That is one of the keys to the entire process," said an informed source. "Without that the accord will have a serious flaw."

In a draft of the Israel-PLO declaration of principles, the issue of "refugees" will be dealt with in the "final status" negotiations scheduled to begin in the third year after Palestinian autonomy begins in the occupied territories. But the PLO leadership, in the face of fierce criticism of the plan from Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, is now seeking to "include some definite reference" that the subject will be discussed sooner than that to pacify its constituency, said the source. During Saturday's press conference the King laughed away suggestions that the government and the Islamic Action Front (IAF), the dominant Islamist group, had made a "sacred" (deal) under which the front had dropped its threat to boycott the elections in protest against the introduction of a one-person, one-vote change to the electoral system.

Combined agency dispatches

TUNIS — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat announced here Saturday that he won the support of his top aides for his controversial accord with Israel for limited Palestinian autonomy. Mr. Arafat told a press conference that he "obtained the backing of the Central Committee of the Fateh, the main PLO faction, for the accord on autonomy starting in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho." He said he would now submit the accord to the Palestine Central Council (PCC), which groups all the guerrilla movements including those opposed to the deal. But a senior PLO official, Farouk Kaddumi, said four of the 12 committee members present rejected the accord and that the eight had only supported it on condition it be submitted to the 100-member PCC. He added it might also have to be approved by the Palestine National Council. Mr. Arafat said mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel to end 30 years of conflict would also take place "very quickly" in an exchange of letters between the two sides. He told reporters at his Tunis headquarters that the self-rule agreement "is final and there is no going back."

He said that some of the Arab participants in the 22-month-old U.S. sponsored peace process — Syria, Jordan and Lebanon — were close to signing agreements with Israel. But he did not say which ones. Mr. Arafat said PLO officials were still finalising the plan with the Israelis. But he disclosed, without elaboration, that a declaration of "mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO" will be made "very soon."

By winning endorsement from the Fateh's Central Committee, Mr. Arafat cleared a major hurdle. Mr. Arafat has been subjected to fierce criticism by PLO officials who object to his secret dealings with Israel behind their backs and the terms of the Gaza-Jericho plan. They claim he has made too many concessions to Israel with no guarantee that the West Bank and Gaza will eventually become an independent state. The Fateh committee meeting involved some heated exchanges, Palestinian sources reported. But one of Mr. Arafat's senior aides, Bassam Abu Sharif, sought to gloss over that. He told the AP: "The chairman has emerged victorious despite some objections, but the majority of the members endorsed his plan and voted for his policy on the peace talks."

Thousands of Israelis rally in support of peace

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — Tens of thousands of Israelis waving banners reading "our people are with peace" rallied Saturday in support of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement on Palestinian autonomy. Organisers said there were 110,000 demonstrators, the largest rally since hundreds of Israelis took to the streets to protest against the 1982 invasion of Lebanon. "After 15 years in which we have been fighting against the Israeli government to have them recognise the need to come to terms with the Palestinians, it has finally happened and people want to express their support," said Tzahi Reshef, spokesman of the Peace Now group that organised the rally. Meanwhile, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said in a rare interview with Israeli TV in Tunis that Israel and the PLO were still discussing terms of mutual recognition.

Mr. Arafat said his Fateh faction had approved the Israel-PLO agreement on starting autonomy in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. Shaking the hand of Israeli TV reporter Yoni Ben-Menachem, he said "let's meet in Jericho." Asked whether peace was on its way, Mr. Arafat said: "peace has started."

Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini told Israelis Friday that 20,000 to 30,000 PLO policemen were needed to maintain the peace in a Palestinian state they want to declare in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Talking directly to the Israeli public on Israel Television, Husseini said that "less than half" of this number were to come from PLO forces from abroad. He said the forces would prevent any civil war between those who backed the peace deal and hardliners who have vowed to fight it. He assured the 120,000 Jewish settlers living in the occupied territories that they could stay,

provided they take on Palestinian citizenship. "A Palestinian state does not object that there will also be those other than Muslims and Palestinians living there. Jews can be there too, but they should be part of the Palestinian state and not another," Mr. Husseini said. Speaking in Hebrew he learned in Israeli prisons where he was jailed for uprising activities, Mr. Husseini said he had no doubt the autonomy agreement would lead to a state. "An independent Palestinian state will be set up in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and it will be in a confederation with Jordan," Mr. Husseini said. Palestinian and Israeli proponents and opponents of the accord also staged demonstrations Saturday. Some 300 Palestinians staged a protest, firing shots into the air and later hurling grenades at an army patrol, Palestinians said. But no casualties were reported in the protest at the Rafah refugee camp, which involved

Sept. 13 suggested for signing

Combined agency dispatches

PARIS — The United States has suggested Sept. 13 as the date for the signing in Washington of a breakthrough peace agreement between Israel and Palestinians, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Saturday. An aide to Mr. Peres told Reuters the Israeli minister disclosed the date at a Paris hotel where he was holding talks with Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst, who is mediating between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "The signing would be of the document which concerns autonomy (for the occupied territories), not for the mutual recognition issue which does not require signatures," the aide said, adding that Mr. Peres was due to return home late Saturday. In Washington, a PLO official said the United States was ready to organise a signing ceremony at the White House for the agreement. "The Russians told us officially that the Americans are ready to set up a signing ceremony at the White House beginning on Sept. 13 with the foreign ministers of the concerned parties attending," said Nabil Shaath, coordinator of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. Leaders of Israel's Hawkish

Russia is a co-sponsor with the United States of the Mideast peace talks which began 22 months ago and has been played out since in high-profile talks, most of them in Washington. The 11th round of bilateral talks began Aug. 13 and end Sept. 14. But the breakthrough in the Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts came in secret negotiations in Norway that produced a draft agreement giving Palestinians limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. Dr. Shaath said he was convinced the United States would recognise the PLO after Israel did. "We hope that the PLO and Israeli foreign affairs ministers (Farouk Kaddumi and Peres) sign the agreement but a lower level of representation has not been ruled out," he said. An Arab diplomatic source said that the foreign ministers of Arab states at the Washington bilaterals — Jordan, Lebanon and Syria — would attend the White House ceremony, as well as PLO, and Saudi Arabia. Dr. Shaath said the accord could not be signed until the PLO and Israel granted each other diplomatic recognition and the agreement was given "total support by Arabs and Palestinians."

"That could take some time," he said. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat announced in Tunis Saturday that he won the support of his top aides for the accord (see separate story). Peres said on Friday that agreements for self-rule and mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO were separate issues that did not require simultaneous signing. Asked in Tunis about Israeli-PLO recognition, Mr. Yasser Arafat said on Saturday: "This is now under discussion and I think two letters will be exchanged." "Asked when, he replied: "Very soon."

(Continued on page 10)

Gulf states likely to join aid package for autonomy deal

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Arab states are expected to contribute to international aid aimed at boosting a Palestinian autonomy accord although they are at odds with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), diplomats said Friday.

"I think Gulf states will join other countries in providing aid to Palestinians despite their rift with the PLO," a Western diplomat said.

Despite economic problems caused by low oil prices, the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states would likely want to play a role in fostering peace in the Middle East, a Gulf-based diplomat said.

"By doing this, they are contributing to consolidating peace in the Middle East and I believe they want to play this role. They know they are not paying to (PLO Chairman) Yasser Arafat because the assistance is expected to be supervised by international parties," GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — fell out with Arafat in 1990 after they accused him of siding with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein during the Gulf war.

A halt of their aid to the PLO

caused the worst financial crisis in the group's 29-year existence and created a crack in its ranks, with its leaders accused of manipulation and mismanagement.

GCC states were the main financial backers of the PLO before the Gulf war, extending more than \$2 billion, in addition to billions of dollars in private aid and a five per cent tax on Palestinian working in member states.

To ensure the success of the "Gaza-Jericho first" plan worked out between Israel and the PLO for limited autonomy, the United States has proposed an annual international aid package of \$590 million for Gaza. Gulf states were asked to contribute \$100 million while the rest will come from the United States, Japan and other industrial nations.

"Gulf states are party to the Middle East peace negotiations as they participate in multinational talks," a diplomatic source said.

"Their financial support is of great significance for a sustainable peace in the region. It is clear the recent escalation in Gaza and other areas is not only because of the Israeli occupation but because of deteriorating economic conditions."

According to the annual 1993

Arab economic report, the economy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip continued to decline because of the 25-year-old Israeli occupation and the Palestinian uprising.

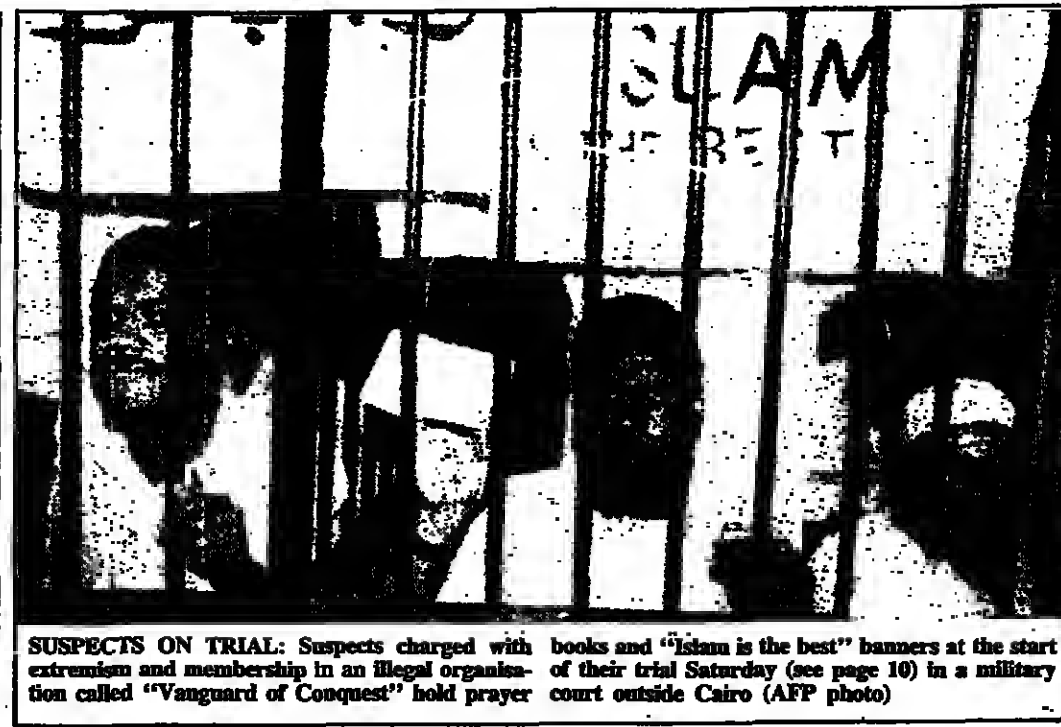
The report, a summary of which was released Thursday, said the situation worsened by the recent Israeli blockade of the occupied territories and it warned of an economic collapse.

The report was drawn up by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) and two other key Arab League organisations.

The report gave no figures but a recent AMF study said all but the farming sector in the occupied territories have declined since 1975.

After a steady rise in the national income to reach \$2.6 billion in 1987, it plunged to \$1.9 billion in 1991 while private investment dropped by six per cent to \$414 million and public investment by 39 per cent to only \$35 million, the study said.

Remittance, a major income source, peaked at \$289 million in 1989 but dipped to \$149 million in 1990 due to the Gulf war. Exports, mostly farm products, plummeted to \$148 million from \$431 million.



SUSPECTS ON TRIAL: Suspects charged with books and "Islam is the best" banners at the start of their trial Saturday (see page 10) in a military court called "Vanguard of Conquest" hold prayer court outside Cairo (AFP photo)

Norway wins Israel, PLO trust after strained ties

OSLO (R) — Norway won the trust of both Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to broker a peace accord in deepest secrecy, leaving behind a history of sometimes strained relations between Oslo and the two sides.

Problem have ranged from an Israeli hit squad that shot the wrong man in a Norwegian street in 1973 to a decision by Oslo police in 1991 to let Israeli agents secretly attend interviews with Palestinians seeking asylum in Norway.

Israel and PLO officials have praised Oslo as an honest broker in at least 14 rounds of secret talks this year in Norway on Palestinians self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

Norway says any historic strains are things of the past.

"We have no bilateral questions outstanding in our relations," foreign ministry spokesman Ingvard Havnen said.

Foreign Minister Johan Joergensen said Norway won the trust of both Palestinians and Israelis after a Norwegian study of living conditions in Israel's occupied territories launched in the late 1980s.

"It was important to all sides that Norway was both a NATO country, close to the United States and an applicant to join the European Community," he told a news conference on Monday to announce the secret contacts.

Also, Norway's ruling Labour Party and Israel's governing coalition party have long had close ties, and Norway has no strategic interests in the Middle East.

The following are the more thorny incidents in Norway's ties with Israel and the PLO:

— December 1991: Israel sent Norway a shipment of heavy water, used to control temperatures in nuclear reactors, to calm

Norwegian fears that it may have helped Israel to develop nuclear weapons.

Norway sold Israel 21 tonnes of heavy water in 1959 and has doubted it was used only for the peaceful purposes specified in the original contract. In a face-saving deal, Israel sent back some heavy water to compensate, but Oslo still does not know what happened with its original shipment.

— October 1991: Norway's chief of intelligence resigned after admitting he allowed Israeli Mossad agents to attend interviews with Palestinians, including some PLO defectors, seeking asylum in Norway.

The police gave the Israelis Norwegian passports to hide their identity. The Israelis often asked questions in Arabic that the Norwegian police could not understand.

— March 1990: After Norway's Labour Party lost power at the polls, a strongly pro-Israeli centre-right government briefly ruled for a year.

Foreign Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik, a ordained Lutheran priest, upset Arabs by saying in a newspaper interview that he believed "God has his hand with Israel's people so that he will protect their right to land."

— July 1973: An Israeli hit squad shot dead a Moroccan woman of 11 in the Norwegian town of Lillehammer, mistaking him for an agent of an Arab guerrilla group that killed 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics in 1972.

Five people were jailed after the attack, but there were wide suspicions that the Israeli ring-leaders went free.

Mr. Holst held fresh discussions on Saturday with his Israeli counterpart in Paris, a Norwegian official said.

'Demjanjuk a victim of fraud'

CINCINNATI (R) — John Demjanjuk was a victim of bungling and outright fraud by U.S. government prosecutors, lawyers for the accused Nazi guard told a court on Friday.

"The investigation is fundamentally flawed," Michael Tigar told a three-judge federal appeals court panel, saying Mr. Demjanjuk's U.S. citizenship should be restored and his extradition to Israel rescinded.

"Who pays? We say that Mr. Demjanjuk should not pay... the person who said justice should be blind didn't say the department of justice should be blind," he added.

But Justice Department lawyer Patty Steiner urged the court to accept the findings of a special investigation which concluded earlier this year that there was no deliberate fraud in Mr. Demjanjuk's prosecution.

She said information that might have been helpful to the 73-year-old former automaker from Cleveland appears that way in hindsight but was not viewed that way at the time.

The judges — some of whom also appeared critical of the government during the hearing — took the case under advisement and will rule at an unspecified later date.

At issue is whether the Justice Department had information in its files during Mr. Demjanjuk's prosecution that indicated he might have been the victim of mistaken identity.

He was stripped of his citizenship in 1981 and extradited to Israel in 1986 to stand trial as "Ivan the Terrible," a guard at Treblinka where thousands of people were gassed.

He was convicted and sentenced to die in Israel but that country's supreme court overturned his conviction last month, saying he was not "Ivan." He is still being held in Israel on the question of whether he should be prosecuted for possibly being a guard at other camps.

The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk says he was a prisoner of the Germans during the war and was not a guard at any Death Camp.

Chief Judge Gilbert Merritt of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, opened Friday's hearing by saying the court does not question the Justice Department's aim, but its means.

"The end sought by the office of special investigations — to bring those responsible to justice — is a worthy end... but in a just society we cannot allow evil or unjust means to defeat noble ends. In our law each step must itself be just."

Piero Leveli, another judge on the panel, criticised the fact that a report from another side that might have been helpful to Mr. Demjanjuk's defence never made it into his file.

A closer look at the PLO Charter

WASHINGTON (R) — The Palestinian National Charter, which Israel demands must be revoked before it will recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) repeatedly denies Israel's right to exist.

The 33-article charter demands the total liberation of the entire area of British mandate Palestine, the bulk of which was declared as the state of Israel in 1948 and the rest occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

It was passed in July 1968 by the Palestine National Council, a parliament in exile that is the PLO's highest decision-making body. Key provisions include:

1. Palestine is the homeland of the Palestinian Arab people. It is an indivisible part of the Arab Homeland, and the Palestinian people are an integral part of the Arab Nation.
2. Palestine, with the boundaries it had during the British mandate, is an indivisible territorial unit.
3. The Palestinian Arab people possess the legal right to their homeland and have the right to determine their destiny after achieving the liberation of their country in accordance with their wishes and entirely of their own accord and will.
4. Armed struggle is the only way to liberate Palestine.
5. Command and control constitutes the nucleus of the Palestinian popular liberation war.

19. The partition of Palestine in 1947 and the establishment of the state of Israel are entirely illegal, regardless of the passage of time, because they were contrary to the will of the Palestinian people and to their natural right in their homeland, and inconsistent with the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, particularly the right to self-determination.

20. The Balfour Declaration, the mandate for Palestine and everything that has been based upon them, are deemed null and void. Claims of historical or religious rights of Jews with Palestine are incompatible with the facts of history and the true conception of what constitutes statehood. Nor do Jews constitute a single nation with an identity of its own; they are citizens of the states to which they belong.

21. The Palestinian Arab people, expressing themselves by the armed Palestinian revolution, reject all solutions which are substitutes for the total liberation of Palestine and reject all proposals aiming at the liquidation of the Palestinian problem, or its internationalisation.

22. Zionism is a political movement organically associated with international imperialism and antagonistic to all action for liberation and to progressive movements in the world. It is racist and fanatic in its nature,

aggressive, expansionist and colonial in its aims and fascist in its methods. Israel is the instrument of the Zionist movement, and a geographical place for world imperialism placed strategically in the midst of the Arab Homeland to combat the hopes of the Arab Nation for liberation, unity and progress.

33. This charter shall not be amended save by a majority of two-thirds of the total membership of the National Council of the Palestine Liberation Organisation at a special session convened for that purpose.

Palestinians say it would take weeks to assemble the 600 members of the PNC, and fierce opposition to the self-rule deal means nobody can guarantee that PLO leader Yasser Arafat would win the two-thirds majority.

But an Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, whose fragile coalition government also faces determined opposition from the rightwing Likud, needed cast-iron proof that the PLO accepted the Jewish state.

The source said secret contacts on recognition were probably now taking place in France, since Israeli foreign Minister Shimon Peres was there.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday a Palestinian self-rule accord for the occupied territories and mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO were separate issues not

Israeli army sees 'security' dangers in autonomy

By Nicolas B. Tatro
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — The army's top commanders were left out of secret talks on self-rule for Palestinians and have suggested the plan is flawed, igniting a debate in security-conscious Israel that could undercut support for the deal.

Critics demanded a pledge from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) that attacks on soldiers stop, as well as the "right" for Israeli security forces to chase any violators into proposed PLO run enclaves.

Officials of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government said such questions could wait for detailed negotiations, which are to begin as soon as a "declaration of principles" is signed by Israel and the Palestinians.

"Work has started in the army to give security answers to security problems because of the new situation that the plan will create," said Oded Ben-Ami, Mr. Rabin's defence spokesman.

In Israel, "security" issues are central. The revelation that army chief of staff Elmad Barak believed the plan posed a "difficult challenge" and had no say in the security aspects came as a shock.

The furor gave ammunition to right-wing leaders who have been calling for a new election to approve the plan that could give the PLO control of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho by year's end.

Yigal Carmon, adviser to former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, contended "it was a mistake" for Mr. Rabin to exclude army commanders from the nine months of PLO-

Israeli negotiations that produced the self-rule plan.

"There is no mention of a Palestinian commitment to cease terrorism and the uprising, which has spilled over into Israel in the past," said Mr. Carmon.

Both PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and his Paris representative, Laila Shahed, recently said Palestinians retained the right to attack Israeli soldiers as long as Israeli forces stayed on Palestinian land, he noted.

A key unanswered question, he contended, was how to deal with those who launched an attack in Israel and then sought shelter in a PLO-run enclave.

"Israel needs the right of hot pursuit, otherwise how will we defend ourselves?" Mr. Carmon asked.

He said it was unclear if Israeli forces would have to

abandon the Jordan Valley.

"If that is the case, then we will have a serious problem of security, not just against terror, but the eastern front," he said.

Another unanswered question, he said, was whether the United Nations would be allowed to send in thousands of observers. If the experiment in self-rule failed, and the areas plunged into chaos, Israel might not be able to regain control over them with U.N. forces present.

As the questions mounted, the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas group which opposes the peace plan claimed responsibility for killing an Israeli soldier in the West Bank on Thursday. Militants, shouting "to Israel," also clashed with soldiers in the Gaza Strip.

Avraham Tamir, a former general who helped negotiate

the security arrangements in the 1978 Camp David autonomy plan that served as a model for the current scheme, said the criticism was "ridiculous."

"The PLO has an interest in everything going smoothly," he said. "This is a corridor for self-determination and statehood. Why should they destroy hope? They will do everything to control the area," said Mr. Tamir.

He added that even if the PLO did not cooperate, the army had long had detailed plans for dealing with the switch-over to Palestinian self-rule.

"We can keep security with the cooperation of the PLO or without it, and those who say we are going to have security problems in the transitional period are lying," Mr. Tamir said in an interview.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rushdie caricature winners announced

NICOSIA (AP) — Three winners of a Salman Rushdie caricature competition in Iran were awarded a pilgrimage to Mecca. 16 gold coins and a diploma. Two Iranians and a Pakistani were the top three winners who received their prizes Wednesday. The Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the international competition, sponsored by a local newspaper group, drew works from 1,661 Iranian and foreign caricaturists. It did not give descriptions of the winning entries. In February 1989, Iran declared that Mr. Rushdie, an Indian born British writer, should be killed for defaming Islam in his novel, "The Satanic Verses." Mr. Rushdie has been in hiding under police guard ever since.

Israel okays return of Mubarak Awad

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A Palestinian, who was expelled to the United States in 1988, will be allowed back next week to attend an Israeli-Palestinian conference, officials said on Friday. Mubarak Awad, 50, who holds U.S. nationality, was expelled from his home in East Jerusalem for having launched a civil disobedience campaign in the occupied territories at the start of the Palestinian uprising in 1987. His return was approved by the "highest Israeli authorities" following a recommendation by the justice ministry "because of the latest developments in the region," an Israeli official said. Mr. Mubarak, an advocate of non-violence, is expected to attend a conference on human rights in the occupied territories, according to state television.

Europe in exercises against Iranian submarines

MANAMA (AFP) — A U.S. attack submarine and allied warships have completed exercises aimed at hunting and destroying Iranian submarines in the Gulf, the U.S. Navy's top officer in the Middle East said Saturday. The fast-attack submarine *Presidents* conducted manoeuvres with U.S., British and French warships in the Gulf from Wednesday to Friday, Vice Admiral Douglas Katz said in a statement from U.S. Naval Forces Central Command. "By improving our skills in locating and attacking submarines in the Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, we can further our ability to counter a growing concern in the region," Katz said. "Iran's Kilo-class submarines, one in November last year and another in August, and is to acquire a third soon."

Ruling postponed on appeal by British couple

SHARJAH (R) — A United Arab Emirates (UAE) court put off for a day on Saturday its decision on an appeal by a British couple against a one-year prison sentence for cohabitation, their lawyer said. The court was originally due to rule on Saturday on the appeal by Peter Wade and Yvonne Campbell who were released on bail last month pending judgement but their lawyer, Hafez Tabboub, said the ruling had been postponed to Sunday. Ms. Campbell's divorce from her husband Kenneth, who complained to the authorities in April that she was living illegally with Mr. Wade, has meanwhile been completed. Mr. Wade told Reuters. Ms. Campbell, 27, has been described by British newspapers as Mr. Wade's common-law wife. Mr. Tabboub said earlier Mr. Wade, 48, was a friend who invited her and her children to stay when her husband left and refused to pay rent for their house. Cohabitation is illegal under strict Islamic laws enforced in Sharjah, one of the seven emirates in the United Arab Emirates.

Egyptian gunmen kill court official

ASSIUT (R) — Gunmen killed a Christian court summoner in a southern Egypt stronghold of Muslim militants fighting to overthrow the government, security sources said Saturday. They said unidentified gunmen shot and killed Sami Shaikh Mounes, 35, who also ran an electrical appliance store, in his shop in Dayrut 280 kilometres south of Cairo on Friday night. Mr. Mounes was shot and wounded a few years ago in an attack said to have been caused by his relations with women. Police suspect that the militant Al-Gama'a Al Islamiya (Islamic Group) mounted the latest attack for the same reason. Militant-related violence in Egypt has killed more than 180 people including Christians, police and tourists in the past 18 months. Militants have been killed in police raids or executed after trial in military courts.

Direct Aden-London flights to resume

ADEN (R) — Direct flights between London and Aden are to be resumed next month for the first time since the southern half of Yemen gained independence from Britain 25 years ago, officials said Saturday. They said the Yemen state airline Alyemda would start once weekly flights to London's Gatwick airport on Oct. 17 and British Airways would stop off in Aden on its twice weekly flights to the Yemeni capital Sanaa.

Cypriot minister to push EC application

NICOSIA (R) — Cypriot Foreign Minister Alecos Michaelides flies Sunday to Brussels, his first stop on a nine-day tour of eight European Community (EC) capitals to press the island's application for EC membership. The European Commission said in June that Cyprus fulfilled requirements for entry but must find a political settlement before formal entry talks begin. The EC Council of Ministers is expected to discuss the commission's opinion on Cyprus's application next month. Mr. Michaelides told a news conference on Saturday that Cyprus would ask the Council of Ministers to take a decision to begin preliminary talks on preparing Cyprus for membership.

Indian prime minister to visit Iran

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao is to visit Iran this month for talks aimed at strengthening economic and political ties between the two countries, officials said here Saturday. Mr. Rao's three-day trip to Tehran beginning Sept. 21 is the first visit to Iran by an Indian prime minister in a decade. Talks between Mr. Rao and Iranian leaders will focus on expanding trade between the two countries in line with agreements, reached at a joint forum of Indian and Iranian business representatives, the officials said. "Both India and Iran are satisfied with the pace of implementation of the decisions taken by the Indo-Iranian Commission in the fields of trade, industry, agriculture and transportation," an official said.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Le Monde est à Vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Le Journal de L'histoire
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 News in Arabic
20:30 Step By Step
21:10 The Dream Machine
22:40 News in English
22:50 "The Outside"

PRAYER TIMES
04:49 Fajr
06:08 (Sunrise) Doha
16:09 Asr
19:51 Maghrib
20:21 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 627785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623666

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assuan International Church Tel. 625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Weather will be fair and winds will be northeasterly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 16 / 29
Aqaba 23 / 36
Desert 14 / 34
Jordan Valley 22 / 36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27.6, Aqaba 34.5, Humidity reading: Amman 37 per cent, Aqaba 37 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shleha 752405
Dr. Youssef Al Fakh 756988
Dr. Fakhri Tayeh 838880
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846700
Fines pharmacy 661912
Fordown pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 670755
Nairovich pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shuqail pharmacy 676660
Najib pharmacy 847632

REPAIRS:
Dr. Ahmad Qunou 901266
Alqada pharmacy 923417

ZARQA:
Dr. Issa Al Qasbi 901266
Khalil pharmacy 923417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 63041
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Price Complaints 630300
Water and Sewerage 661176
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khafid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Alkhil Maternity, J. Amn 662441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642361
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shuqail 664174
Shuqail Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645855
Al-Muhsin Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajirun 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Asrafiyah 775111/26
Army, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 622440/20
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)905060
Jabal Amman Maternity (09)986732
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital (09)9990

IRBID:
Princess Beama Hospital (02)725555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)722273
Jabal Al-Nafous Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)3220-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30	Bangkok (RJ)
06:45	Muscat (RJ)
06:55	Aqaba (RJ)
07:00	Damascus (RJ)
07:05	Jordan (RJ)
07:10	Larnaca (RJ)
07:15	Riyadh (RJ)
07:20	Jeddah (RJ)
07:25	Bahrain (RJ)
07:30	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
07:35	Rome (RJ)
07:40	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
07:45	Athens, Istanbul (RJ)
07:50	Aden, Bahrain (RJ)
07:55	Amman (RJ)
08:00	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
08:05	New Delhi (RJ)
08:10	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
08:15	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
08:20	Bangkok (RJ)
08:25	Damascus (RJ)
08:30	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
08:35	Sanaa (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30	Madrid (RJ)
07:00	Catanzaro (RJ)
07:10	Aqaba (RJ)
07:15	Frankfurt (RJ)
07:20	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
07:25	Vienna (RJ)
07:30	Rome (RJ)
07:35	Istanbul (RJ)
07:40	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
07:45	Athens, Istanbul (RJ)
07:50	Aden, Bahrain (RJ)
07:55	Amman (RJ)
08:00	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
08:05	New Delhi (RJ)
08:10	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
08:15	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
08:20	Bangkok (RJ)
08:25	Damascus (RJ)
08:30	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
08:35	Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:45	Larnaca (CY)
07:00	Bahrain (GF)
07:10	Moscow (SU)
07:20	Istanbul, Cairo (MS)
07:25	Beirut (ME)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:45	Larnaca (CY)
07:00	Bahrain (GF)
07:10	Moscow (SU)
07:20	Istanbul, Cairo (MS)
07:25	Beirut (ME)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	630/450
Banana	680
Beans (Mediterranean)	520
Beans	550 / 350
Cabbage	170 / 100
Carrot	360/250
Cauliflower	280 / 220
Cucumbers (large)	200 / 100
Cucumbers (small)	350 / 250
Eggplant	180 / 90
Fig	300 / 200
Garlic	800 / 400
Grapes	320/230
Green	500 / 400
Lemon	200 / 220
Marrow (large)	200 / 100
Marrow (small)	320 / 220
Mushrooms	120 / 60
Okra	700/600
Onion (dry)	210 / 150
Pear	900 / 600
Pepper (sweet)	220 / 160
Pepper (hot)	250 / 150
Potato	350 / 250
Tomato	110 / 60
Sweet melon	220/150
Watermelon	80/50

University, JPMC to survey north for phosphate

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

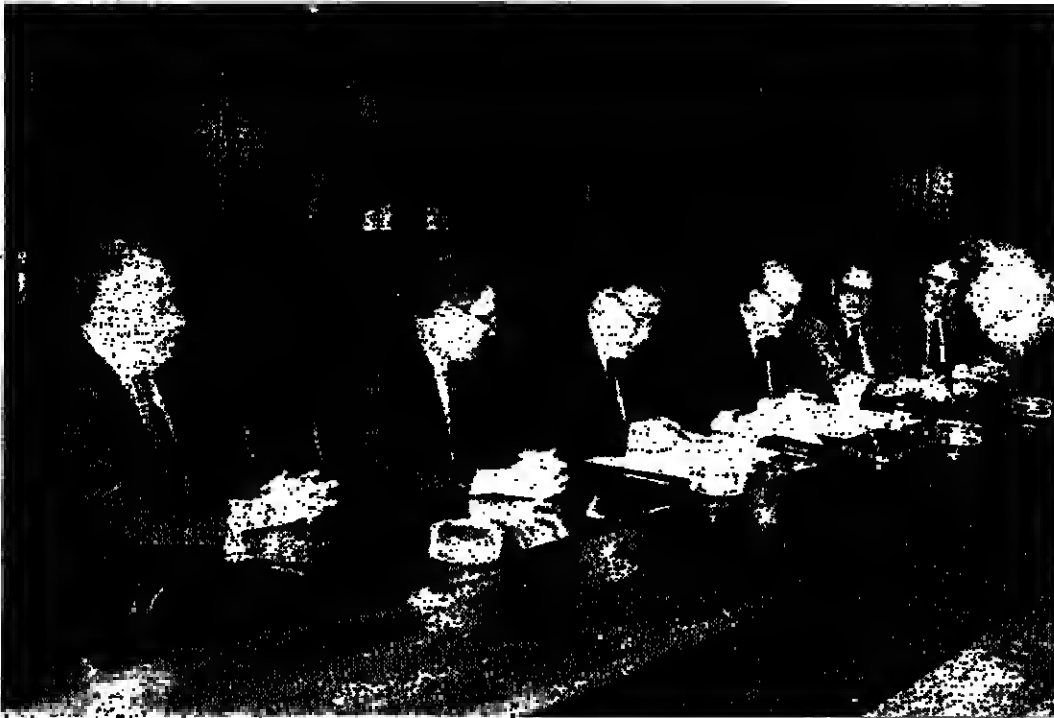
AMMAN — The Centre for Consultations and Technical Services and Studies (CCTSS) at the University of Jordan Saturday signed a contract worth more than JD 50,000 with the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) to conduct surveys and studies on phosphate in Jordan.

Under the terms of the contract the CCTSS will study prospects of mining phosphate in the north and will improve the electric power system supplying the Al Hassa, and Wadi Abiad phosphate mines.

The survey of the north is to take one year and cost JD 10,000; the power improvement project should be completed in six months at a cost of JD 10,750.

The agreement also provides for the centre to conduct studies on the soil under the storage facilities containing phosphoric acid at the Industrial Complex in Ajloun within 18 to 20 months at a cost of JD 21,500 and a study on planting forests between the residential area near Al Hassa Phosphate Mine and the main highway nearby. The land study will take one year and will cost JD 8,390. JPMC Director General Thabet Al Taher and University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh signed the contract at the JPMC headquarters in Amman.

Following the signing ceremony, Mr. Taher said that the



University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh (third from left) and JPMC Director General Thabet Al Taher Saturday sign a contract to survey and study phosphates in Jordan (Petra photo)

company was eager to enlist skilled Jordanians in its drive to boost phosphate production in Jordan. He said he hoped that the company and the university will find additional areas for mutual cooperation in the future.

The JPMC currently produces mines phosphate from Al Abiad, Al Hassa and Shidieh mines in

the south of Jordan, according to JPMC Deputy Director Ishtak Jalal.

Mr. Jalal told the Jordan Times that phosphate does exist in the north near Deir Abi Saeed, adding that the agreement with the CCTSS provide for cooperation between the company and

the centre to determine the quality and quantity present and whether it is commercially viable or not.

He said the study of the phosphate in the north will be conducted jointly by the centre's specialists and engineers employed by the JPMC.

2 of 49 cases are diagnosed as typhoid

AMMAN (Petra) — Only two cases out of 49 admitted to hospital in Ajloun last week for treatment were diagnosed as typhoid, Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas announced Saturday.

The 49 patients admitted to Al Ezzan Hospital in Ajloun were complaining of high fever, but tests and cultures conducted on the urine, stool and blood of these patients proved to be normal fever cases, not typhoid, said the minister. In addition, the Health De-

partment conducted tests on samples of food and beverages taken from street vendors and tested samples of water taken from different sources to determine the cause of the fever that affected Ajloun citizens, including many children, Dr. Malhas said.

He added that the fever could arise from different causes and not necessarily typhoid.

"The tests have proved that the water of the local springs was quite safe and potable and

free of typhoid microbes and this is a very reassuring result," said the minister adding that the ministry was maintaining strict surveillance over the situation.

He said 19 patients have been discharged from hospital after receiving the necessary medication; the others are expected to leave hospital in the coming two days.

The ministry of health, said Dr. Malhas, was keen on informing the public about the facts of the health situation.

"The health ministry would like to reassure the public that there is no cause for alarm because there is no danger of an epidemic, although typhoid is one of the known diseases that is endemic in the region," said the minister.

Dr. Malhas cautioned the public not to eat vegetables and fruits without first washing them thoroughly and said precautionary measures concerning public safety should be strictly heeded.

ATF chief warns Europe against 'hostile' policies towards Arabs

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) Ali Um Leil Saturday warned western European nations against what he called their hostile policies towards the Arab and Islamic worlds. Dr. Um Leil said such policies could cause severe damage to European countries and urged these nations to take the initiative to support the Arab countries economically and technologically not only in the interest of the Arabs but rather in the interest of the Europeans themselves.

Speaking in the wake of the conclusion of a Euro-Arab dialogue held this week in Amman, Dr. Um Leil said extremism would flourish and would reach the Arab and Islamic minorities

living in western Europe if the Arab countries were allowed to remain in an economically, politically and socially unstable situation.

The Arab masses feel disappointed and frustrated because of social injustice and repression, he said, adding this feeling stems from the heavy burdens of foreign indebtedness, unemployment and political injustices.

"Should extremism be allowed to continue and expand, it would reach western European countries where it would constitute a danger to European nation stability and progress," warned Dr. Um Leil.

"For extremism to be stemmed, western Europe and the Arab countries ought to launch

real cooperation towards achieving economic growth and towards narrowing the large gap separating the two sides at present," Dr. Um Leil urged.

Voicing dissatisfaction with the current level of cooperation between Europe and the Arab World, Dr. Um Leil said "the Europeans were taking further hostile attitudes towards the Arabs recently by tightening security measures against Arabs and Muslims preventing them from immigrating to Europe."

"At present, the western Europeans are directing their attention towards bolstering their ties with the countries of Latin America and accepting immigrants from the eastern European countries, while sacrificing their relations

with the Arabs and Muslims," charged Dr. Um Leil.

Referring to the recent Euro-Arab dialogue, which was organised by the Arab Thought Forum and attended by 25 delegates from Europe and the Arab World, Dr. Um Leil said the discussions were frank and covered Arab-European relations and future prospects, as well as areas of cooperation between the two sides.

He said the deliberations will be compiled and distributed to decision-makers in the Arab World and Europe so that those in responsible positions can give due consideration to these matters and take appropriate measures to bring the European and Arabs closer together.

Activists to hold environmental session to tackle major controversial issues
Jordan to join in world clean-up campaign

AMMAN (J.T., Petra) — The Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP) in cooperation with the German Friedrich Naumann Foundation will conduct an evening session at the Kofor Alma Municipal Council on Monday on the topic of mining and quarrying activities' impact on environment and health.

The session will tackle Kofor Alma's quarry, environmental impact assessment of projects, the role of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment in licensing and controlling mining and quarrying activities, the role of Natural Resources Authority on licensing procedures, and the mining activity impact on health.

It aims at highlighting sources of pollution at the national level, particularly the controversial

issues in areas such as Hashemiyeh, Khadish and Fubais. Dialogue among the different parties concerned is expected.

The environmental evening session will host mainly the residents of Kofor Alma, in addition to JSCEP members in Irbid, and many invited guests from the public and private sectors in Kofor governorate.

The Amman Municipality and JSCEP announced that Jordan is to join other nations in a worldwide campaign to clean the earth starting on Sept. 14.

Jordanian participation aims at combating all forms of environmental pollution, promoting and fostering a national sense of dealing positively with the elements of the environment and nature, and reducing the amount of waste

by encouraging recycling of various usable materials to help conserve natural resources, said a statement issued by the organisers.

The statement said volunteers in the drive will come from sports clubs, youth centres charitable societies, sports federations, universities, the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QJAF), the Professional Association Complex, ministries and government departments, municipal and village councils, the Jordanian armed forces, the Civil Defence Department (CDD), cultural centres, religious schools and the private sector.

The volunteers will raise funds for the campaign, distribute trash bags and leaflets with guidelines on food, water public safety,

transport and health services, the statement said.

The trash bags will be of two colours; green for paper waste which could be recycled at paper factories, and black for other waste.

The organisers said that among the main areas to be cleaned are the Amman National Park on the Queen Alia International Airport Highway and densely populated districts of Amman.

They said maps would be prepared indicating the targeted areas for the clean-up operation. Volunteers involved in the campaign will wear distinguishable shirts and caps.

JSCEP sources said that Jordan produces some 800,000 tonnes of solid waste annually from households alone.

Former minister offers solutions to agricultural pollution

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Farmers' random use of chemical fertilisers, pesticides and hybrid seeds impair land, damage the environment and may pollute groundwater, a former minister of agriculture charged, but alternatives are available, he maintained.

"Most farmers apply chemical fertilisers randomly without knowing the land's actual need for minerals. They neglect crop-rotation and the role of nature in taking care of itself," former minister and Parliament deputy Mohammad Alawneh said in a recent lecture addressing agricultural pollution held at the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP).

He added that the toxic residues of pesticides and insecticides could contaminate groundwater and endanger human and animal health.

Mr. Alawneh, an agricultural engineer, said that chemical fertilisers based on nitrates deplete the soil of organic matter. Within

years the nitrates would seep to the groundwater, polluting it and making it unfit for further use.

The excessive use of pesticides and insecticides, he said, may result in the residues accumulating in fruits and vegetables making them unfit for human consumption.

As for hybrid seeds, he admitted that they guarantee good yields, but maintained that crops are increasingly becoming vulnerable to pests because of Jordan's moderate climate which enables pests to spread much more than in their natural cool climate.

Mr. Alawneh explained to the Jordan Times later that imported hybrid seeds, which brought disease from their origin, should be banned. He suggested that crop-rotation could solve part of the problem as disease would have no vital environment in which to spread. Thus, less quantities of pesticides and insecticides, he said, would be required.

He said organic fertilisers should be used properly as an alternative to the harmful effects of chemical fertilisers and there-

fore help to prevent groundwater pollution.

During the lecture, Mr. Alawneh also stressed the need to plant in order to expand the green area in Jordan. To preserve land for that purpose, he proposed that building should be restricted to rocky and hilly areas and should extend eastwards instead of westwards where the fertile areas abound.

Mr. Alawneh's policies during his tenure as minister of agriculture in the government of Taher Al Masri in 1992 drew controversy. His decision to allow cattle to graze in forests was widely criticised at the time.

Livestock waste, he said, works as organic fertiliser and is very essential to the soil. He added that "grazing was allowed only in forests that were more than 15 years old."

But Mr. Alawneh contended that his decision was misinterpreted by some officials at the ministry who allowed grazing in new forests. He said that this resulted in damage to about one million newly planted trees.

Vehicle inspection campaign starts off leniently

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Traffic Department Saturday launched its campaign to check vehicle lights and fuel emissions, but were taking a lenient approach towards motorists.

Three units, one stationed at Yarmouk Street; another at Al-Husseini Medical Centre Street and the third nearby the Jordan Television and Radio Cooperation, began inspection at 8 a.m.

"We are focusing on vehicles that are producing thick smoke, which cause pollution and is dangerous to other drivers and pedestrians," said a traffic official posted at Yarmouk Street.

The official said he issued only a few fines and seized a handful of licences (car registrations and drivers' licences) the first day because they discovered that most people had no knowledge of the campaign.

"We have been very lenient about issuing tickets, instead we are issuing warnings to people to give them a chance," said the official, who preferred anonymity.

Drivers were issued a warning by traffic officers if one light was not functioning. But if they considered the malfunction of any vehicle lights to be hazardous, the officers would seize drivers' licences and the car licences.

The same procedure was applied for smoke emissions causing pollution.

Some drivers, were startled when they were issued tickets.

An astonished ice cream truck driver received a warning for smoke emitting from his vehicles. "I didn't hear anything about this campaign" before today when I was pulled over," he said.

An angry motorist who received a ticket for no brake lights said he didn't have any knowledge of the campaign.

The traffic officials said officers will be flexible with drivers to give them a chance to repair any problem.

"Hopefully during the next few days, people's awareness concerning this issue will have increased, and motorists will be more cooperative with the officials," he said.

Blood bank directors address disease prevention in transfusions

AMMAN (Petra) — The increased spread of disease through blood transfusions has become a matter of deep concern to health authorities around the world, said health minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Saturday, adding that Jordan, along with other nations, has given increasing attention to testing blood donations and adopting other related measures to prevent the spread of disease.

The minister was speaking at the opening of a four-day meeting of directors of blood banks, organised by the regional office of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in cooperation with the

Health Ministry in Jordan. The participants represent 23 countries including Jordan.

The delegates will discuss policies adopted in blood transfusion processes, management of blood transfusion services and modern techniques used in these areas.

The meeting is considered one of the most significant activities conducted by WHO, and is aimed at enabling countries of the region to benefit from modern methods of preventing diseases, said Dr. Malhas.

WHO Regional Office Director Hussein Jazairi sent a message

to the meeting stressing that blood transfusion services are a major concern of the world organisation.

But, he said, numerous difficulties and obstacles still impede the development of blood transfusion services in the Mediterranean region.

Dr. Jazairi said WHO is keen on promoting management of this service and organising training for those involved in the blood transfusion process, and at the same time it seeks to encourage people to donate blood for those in need.

Cuban deputy premier to arrive Wednesday

AMMAN (Petra) — Cuban Deputy Prime Minister Pedro Bretto is due in Amman on Wednesday for an official five-day visit to the Kingdom during which he is expected to deliver a message to His Majesty King Hussein from

Cuban President Fidel Castro.

The envoy will also meet with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, and senior government officials to discuss world issues including the Middle East peace process.

From Tue. 7/9
Up to Fri. 10/9

MEDITERRANEAN INT'L TOURS

discover the area
attracting the area

We are pleased to invite you to share with us discovering the beauty of the nature in Jordan. On Tuesday our tour will be to Dana Reserve for animals, birds and wild plants. We will discover the area and spend our night in the Royal Society for the Conservatory of nature camp.

On Wednesday we will visit Petra "the red-rose city" and at night we will be in the Rum Valley with the local band. Then, we will be leaving to Aqaba, stay there for 2 nights with a wonderful programme. On Friday afternoon our tour will be back to Amman.

For information and reservation. Call tel.: 691232
Abdali, Jordan-Kuwait Bank building.
Al Nujoon Theatre entrance

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Egyptian artist H. Elkar at the Balqa' Art Gallery in Fabeis.
- ★ Thirty paintings by Amour Onis and Sakim Kanan at the Alfa Art Gallery.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by artists Mohammed Al Ameri and Ghassan Abu Laban at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ New art gallery, "Darat Al Fann", of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation. Program includes the permanent exhibition and the "Chapin" exhibition in Jabal

Luwibdeh.

- ★ Exhibition by Syrian artist Nadhir Isma'il at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Kababish Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre.

SEMINARS

- ★ Seminar entitled "On the Fifth Anniversary of the Death of Munawwar 'Weiss'" by Dr. Abdul Rahman Yaghi, Mr. Suikman Mashini, and Mrs. Mayman. Weiss at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

الدراسات الانجليزية الحديثة
NEW ENGLISH SCHOOL
P.O. BOX 154 KHALDA - AMMAN
TEL: 827151, 827152, 827153, 827154 - FAX: 816894

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED AT THE NEW ENGLISH SCHOOL

The Directorate and the staff of the New English School would like to congratulate all students (Grades 4-12) who have been awarded academic scholarships for the 1993-1994 academic session and to convey to them every good wish for successful studies ahead.

الدراسات الانجليزية الحديثة
NEW ENGLISH SCHOOL
P.O. BOX 154 KHALDA - AMMAN
TEL: 827151, 827152, 827153, 827154 - FAX: 816894

EXAMINATION SUCCESSES AT THE NEW ENGLISH SCHOOL AGAIN!

Congratulations are extended to students and parents of the New English School community on the splendid success rate in the external examination results for the Boards of the Universities of London and Cambridge.

Best wishes, too, to all the Tawjihi students on a combined performance that ranked well above the national average.

This year, the vast majority of the candidates who presented themselves were home-grown Jordanians who have been brought up through the school ranks — a fine tradition for future N.E.S. students to emulate.

Overall, students managed to secure a pass rate of 95.2% in the I.G.C.S.E. Performances in the G.C.E 'O' level 'A' level examinations were also particularly impressive.

A quarter of all grades scored were at Grade A standard and the list of students scoring 5 A's or more is larger than ever before. Based on such fine results, degree courses have been secured in establishments such as the University of London, the M.I.T., Boston University, the A.U.B., McGill University and many more. Long may such success continue.

All best wishes to the student and parent body are accorded by the staff and the administration of the N.E.S. on such a fine combined performance.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Ending the speculation

IN THE frenzy to complete the circle of drama that surrounded Arab opposition to the Palestinian-Israeli accord of Aug. 20, the world media zeroed in on Jordan. Jordan's disquiet over the way the secret agreement was reached was blown out of proportion. The declared Jordanian intention not to accept any articles involving Jordan in the accord without its agreement was interpreted as total rejection of the Oslo agreement. Dissatisfaction over the lack of explicit solution to the Jerusalem issue was used to infer that Jordan was questioning the credibility of the PLO leadership.

Jordanian newspapers somehow fell into the trap of the frenzied media reaction to the accord, with many columnists going too far in depicting Jordan's reservations as some sort of lasting estrangement from the PLO leadership. One Arabic daily was even reluctant to headline the story in which His Majesty King Hussein endorsed the agreement with the words he used to bless it.

Being fully aware of the intention of those forces that do not wish well for the Palestinian-Jordanian relations, the King yesterday sought to put an end, once and for all, to all attempts to fishing in the murky waters. He dotted the Is and crossed the Ts by fully endorsing the accord, describing it as "a very serious, comprehensive attempt on both sides involved in the negotiations to move forward towards the establishment of a just and durable peace." The King said that after he received the full details of the agreement from the PLO leadership, Jordan's position remains one of "support to the independent Palestinian position and to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

True the King revealed that he was hurt by the manner by which Jordan was kept unaware of the secret talks and the details of the accord; and he probably still has some reservations about the agreement. But His Majesty made it crystal clear that Jordanians and Palestinians were in the same boat and that, no matter what happens in the short term, they will continue to have an intertwined future and destiny. His was a masterful political act and his wisdom and courage could not be overlooked by Jordanians or Palestinians or anyone in the Arab World who is genuinely concerned about the interests of the Arab Nation.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily said Saturday that the PLO has all the right to negotiate with Israel and with other parties in the course of achieving the aspired Palestinian people's objectives. All the other Arab parties to the peace negotiations also have the right to negotiate with the Israelis to ensure the return of their usurped rights and lands, said the paper. All is fair if the negotiations are based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, on which the peace process which started in Madrid is founded, the paper added. The paper said that Jordan had taken a decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank for the sole purpose of giving the Palestinians the right to pursue efforts towards regaining their rights and their homeland. Since the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, as endorsed by the Rabat Summit, it has the right to negotiate for the Palestinians and regain their lost lands and rights, continued the daily. For this reason, Jordan has voiced its backing to the PLO for its efforts to regain these rights and for ensuring an end to occupation, said the paper. Due to the special relationship between the Jordanians and the Palestinians, Amman can only voice its blessings to any deal accepted by the PLO and the Palestinian people, added the daily. But the paper said that more coordination between the Jordanians and the Palestinians ought to take place and there is real need for an Arab summit meeting to give an overall approval to the steps taken by the Palestinians to ensure their rights and future.

A COLUMNIST in Al Rai daily Saturday backed the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, but noted that Jordan has the right to take measures that would prevent any move that could endanger its own security as a result of that particular agreement. Fahd Al Fanek said that since Jordan and the other Arab states had given the PLO the right to be the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, they all have to bless the organisation's agreements with Israel. No Arab party has the right to interfere in the PLO's decisions as no Arab party defended the Palestinians in the face of the massacres and the aggression they had been facing in Lebanon and Palestine, stressed the writer. The text of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement reveals that the PLO has secured Israel's recognition of the organisation and provided a programme for autonomy rule and the other benefits targeted at the start of the Madrid peace conference, he pointed out. It is easy for those Palestinians living in the rich districts of Amman to voice their opposition to the agreement, because they have not suffered from Israeli occupation rule nor are they harmed by the Israeli presence in Palestine, said Fanek. All that Jordan can do now is to bless the agreement, but it also has the right to take appropriate measures to protect its own interests.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Why should Jordan worry?

THE FACT that the PLO did not consult with Jordan before striking a deal with Israel is bad, but not harmful in itself. Mr. Arafat will make up for this with more bugs and kisses. The questions, therefore, are: Why should Jordan worry about the Gaza-Jericho deal, what are the possible risks for its own security and finally, what are the Jordanian options towards these risks? Jordan should have at least three areas to worry about and, hopefully, to do something to minimise the risk or prevent the damages. The first is demography, the second is economy, while the third is security.

The full details of the PLO-Israeli accord are not yet made public. We in Jordan, have no alternative but to depend solely on Israeli sources, which are not dependable nor known for their accuracy. There was also a mention of confidential annexes related to security and other matters which complicate things further. Therefore, it is quite possible that other risks do exist and we are not even aware of them.

As facts stand now, Jordan should worry about a potential transfer of population from Gaza Strip to Jordan via Jericho. The Gazans will, of course, have the right to move to Jericho, which may serve as a waiting point or a station for crossing into Jordan over the bridges.

Jordan should also worry about the consequences of a Palestinian economy that is fully open to Israel. The continued trade activities at the bridges mean an implied access for the Israeli industry to Jordan's market without official normalisation of relations or waiting for an acceptable peace treaty. If Jordan ends its boycott against Israel, and grants the Jewish state an effective channel to the vast Arab markets, Israel will find no reason to make any concessions to Jordan in their bilateral negotiations in Washington.

To that we add the possible civil strife that may erupt between supporters of the PLO and its opponents in the occupied territories, which may spill over into Jordan, threatening in the

process its internal security and national unity.

What should be done?

The whole problem lies in the "open bridges" policy that Jordan had adopted long ago under emotional pressure to help Palestinians under occupation and facilitate their lives. Now that the circumstances are expected to be altered drastically, Jordan should close the bridges until such time when the nature of the agreement becomes known, especially if Israel continues to control the bridges and dictate who and what is allowed to cross in which direction.

If the bridges continue to operate under Israeli supervision, the results should be known in advance. People will be encouraged to cross the bridges eastwards, while returning westwards would remain extremely difficult and subject to documentation and time limitation. The bridges will be used to evacuate Gaza and West Bank gradually, at the expense of Jordan.

On the economic side, the Israelis are operating the bridges in a manner that allows products and commodities to cross the bridges eastwards but does not allow Jordanian products to enter the West Bank and Israel. The occupied territories have thus been used as a captive market for Israeli industry and output.

Closing the bridges will protect Jordan demographically and will protect the Jordanian economy from the unfair competition posed by an Israeli economy which is heavily subsidised, up to \$6 billion a year; it will also serve as a signal that Jordan cannot be taken for granted by any party and that its worries must be addressed and taken into account.

Would the Jordanian government act responsibly and decisively and close the bridges immediately? This is a big question which will not be answered, perhaps, for days or weeks. It is a question that could test the government's capability in meeting real challenges.

Revive observance of humanitarian law

By Cornelio Sommaruga

GENEVA — When the cold war finally came to an end, many of us believed that this was the 20th century's best moment for constructing a durable world peace. The United Nations would at least be able to implement its mandate, based on universally recognised values laid down in international law.

Disputes, rather than being fought out in trenches or in the air, would be referred to the World Court. Armed forces would be deployed only to enforce the decisions of the U.N. Security Council. National armed forces would be progressively reduced to the minimum necessary for assuring internal order.

I have not given up hope that such a state of affairs is realisable. Despite all the setbacks, many important steps have been taken in the last three years to strengthen the authority of both the Security Council and international law and to build up the peacekeeping and peace-enforcing powers of the United Nations.

Nevertheless, it is impossible from my vantage point not to be all but overwhelmed by the carnage that has been unleashed in various corners of the globe in recent years.

I respect the findings of the Stockholm International Peace Institute, which reports that the number of major conflicts has decreased year by year in the last five years. Yet while accepting this welcome news I am struck by a degree of savagery unleashed that neither I nor my colleagues in the field have wit-

nessed before. Perhaps it is because both we and the media have more access to the eye of the storm than previous generations had. That is part of it.

But we are also convinced that the practice of war has undergone a change for the worse. Civilian populations are becoming with ever greater frequency the hostages of warlords and the primary target of their opponents. We also observe a marked increase in sexual violence, directed in particular against women and children.

In too many places, as the clamps of the cold war era have been removed, authority, for all its failings a stabilising force, has been replaced by anarchy. The control of weapons is no longer in responsible hands. Instead we see very sophisticated weapons being deployed by people who are often no more than clan leaders, factional figures or upstart warlords whose only claim to the charisma of leadership is the ruthlessness with which they wield the gun.

At least at the time of the Vietnam war we knew who was saying "no" to us. Now there is often nobody who can make a firm decision, and a "yes" can become a "no" in the flick of an eyelash. A promise for the safe passage of our relief workers is broken with hapazard regularity. Our emblem is ignored, mocked and shot at. We have lost 15 of our field staff in the last year alone.

It is for these reasons that we asked the Swiss government, as depositary of the Geneva conven-

tions, to call the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims, to be held starting on Monday in Geneva.

Every member country of the United Nations has been invited, together with observers ranging from the U.N. secretary-general's office to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the PLO to Amnesty International.

Our aim is nothing less than resuscitation of the observance of international humanitarian law.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, the initiator of the Geneva conventions, has been charged by those members of the world community who are signatories with monitoring the application of its articles. We intend at this conference to discharge this obligation with a renewed fervor and to persuade those countries — in particular those influential members of the Security Council, the United States, France and Britain, which have not yet ratified the additional Protocols I and II adopted in 1977, widening the Geneva conventions to further protect civilians — to do so speedily.

In particular, we are asking participants to make a public commitment to end the massacre of civilians, summary executions, systematic torture of detainees, inhuman conditions of detention, the starvation or forced displacement of populations, indiscriminate use of arms, the plundering of humanitarian aid and the murder of personnel working under the emblem of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.

This means all countries and all peoples taking seriously the Geneva conventions and the additional protocols, which means incorporating their obligations into military instruction and school curricula. It means punishing war criminals and restricting the arms trade from which so much money is made at the expense of the control of war. It also means resolving to separate more clearly humanitarian aid from other political and military goals, including peacekeeping.

It means tightening the international restrictions on the use of those conventional weapons that cause excessive damage to life and limb.

Finally, it means recognising the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission, established in principle in 1977 but not deployed as foreseen to investigate allegations of violations of the Geneva conventions and the additional protocols.

International humanitarian law exists to help save mankind from the scourge of war. All of us, wherever we are, need it to work as intended. Negligence, ignorance and hostility are its enemies. In Geneva, as the shadow of war lies once again across mankind's path to progress, we must resolve to treat this profound body of law more seriously.

The writer is president of the International Committee of the Red Cross. This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

peoples taking seriously the Geneva conventions and the additional protocols, which means incorporating their obligations into military instruction and school curricula.

It means punishing war criminals and restricting the arms trade from which so much money is made at the expense of the control of war.

It also means resolving to separate more clearly humanitarian aid from other political and military goals, including peacekeeping.

It means tightening the international restrictions on the use of those conventional weapons that cause excessive damage to life and limb.

Finally, it means recognising the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission, established in principle in 1977 but not deployed as foreseen to investigate allegations of violations of the Geneva conventions and the additional protocols.

International humanitarian law exists to help save mankind from the scourge of war. All of us, wherever we are, need it to work as intended. Negligence, ignorance and hostility are its enemies. In Geneva, as the shadow of war lies once again across mankind's path to progress, we must resolve to treat this profound body of law more seriously.

The writer is president of the International Committee of the Red Cross. This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

The heartening assertion of the Semitic centre

By Rami G. Khouri

This article is reprinted from the Sept. 3, 1993, issue of the New York Times.

The Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles for peace leading to initial Palestinian self-government in Gaza-Jericho is a historic breakthrough that deserves widespread support. Flawed, secretive, partial and vague as it may be, the agreement represents a heartening historical dynamic that the Middle East has not witnessed since the Zionist/Arab nationalist conflict started nearly a century ago: the self-confident assertion of the rational and humanistic Semitic political centre in a region that has long been dominated by emotionalism, maximalism, militarism and fear.

The centrist forces of Semitic composure and realism — represented by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat and the Labour-led Israeli leadership — have taken an enormous, daring gamble for peace. They enjoy the support of the majority of their peoples, but they have to move decisively to translate their daring hope into a stable peace that future generations of Arabs and Israelis can live with.

To many of us in this region, the accord's self-evident vagueness and weaknesses are compellingly outweighed by its positive elements. It enshrines PLO-Israeli joint recognition, it allows Palestinians and Israelis to envisage peaceful coexistence in two adjacent national entities, it confirms both sides' acceptance of a gradual, phased and peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, it provides a realistic alternative to the Middle East's gruesome cycle of death and destruction, and, for the Palestinians, it represents the 20th century's first, albeit small and symbolic, territorial and political rollback of Zionist/Israeli domination of Palestine.

The propudial reservations raised by Palestinians and other Arabs are accurate and valid. Mr. Arafat and his small circle of advisors are secretive and autocratic, and Arab states such as Jordan, Lebanon and Syria are deeply piqued about not being consulted or informed ahead of time. Arab states that thought they were politically coordinating before every round of Middle East peace talks now feel rather foolish. Jordan also feels that Mr. Arafat's secretive ways erode the trust that must underpin the current joint Jordanian-Palestinian peace negotiating team and a future Jordanian-Palestinian confederation and it resents being assigned a future role in the region without being consulted

beforehand. Arab anger at how the accord was reached will dissipate in time — as they have in similar situations in the past — but legitimate substantive questions will linger. Many Palestinians and other Arabs fear that the Gaza-Jericho formula's huge concessions institutionalise Palestinian political weaknesses, fragment the integrity of the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories and hold out little or no hope of any further significant Palestinian gains. They worry that Israel's bilateral engagement of the Palestinians could grievously dilute the concept of a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace accord based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

"To many of us in this region, the accord's self-evident vagueness and weaknesses are compellingly outweighed by its positive elements. It enshrines PLO-Israeli joint recognition, it allows Palestinians and Israelis to envisage peaceful coexistence in two adjacent national entities, it confirms both sides' acceptance of a gradual, phased and peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, it provides a realistic alternative to the Middle East's gruesome cycle of death and destruction..."

The burden is on the PLO, also, to address valid Palestinian/Arab concerns about the potentially serious regional consequences of the agreement, vis-a-vis issues such as Jerusalem, refugee flows, economic investment patterns, pressures on fragile land and water resources, political extremism, military security, the status of Palestinians in Arab countries, and the residual impact on the diplomatic role and political importance of existing Arab states.

If centrist Palestinians and Israelis are to overcome the often violent religious and secular opposition they face from the right and left, they must act quickly, openly and decisively. They should exert all possible efforts to assure that Israel's speedy military redeployment and transfer of authority to Palestinians achieve three key results: 1. real improvement in the socio-economic conditions and quality of life of Palestinians in Palestine and a sense of hope and dignity for diaspora Palestinians; 2. ironclad confirmation that Gaza-Jericho is only the initial phase of a larger diplomatic dynamic that will restore Palestinian national rights and return Israeli-occupied lands to Syria, Lebanon and Jordan and 3. a sense for Israelis that they can live in peace and security in the Middle East because they, in turn, have finally accepted the national reality and rights of the Palestinians.

Collapse of talks spells trouble for Bosnians

By Dusan Stojanovic
The Associated Press

GENEVA — The collapse of Bosnian peace talks sets the scene for a surge in fighting and the escalation of human tragedy as the deadly cold of winter approaches.

Talks between warring Serbs, Croats and Muslims broke off Wednesday, exactly one year after they were launched. President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia said the proposed three-way partition of the republic failed to guarantee the survival of a future Muslim state.

Bosnian Serbs and Croats, the winners in the 17-month war, rejected Muslim demands for an additional 4 per cent more land and access to the sea. Mediators had proposed giving Muslims 31 per cent, Serbs 52 per cent and Croats 17 per cent.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has warned the Serbs and Croats may split the country between themselves now that the talks have collapsed.

However, the Serbs already control 70 per cent of Bosnia and are unlikely to risk unleashing threatened NATO air strikes by grabbing land of little strategic or historic value to them.

But fighting between former Muslim and Croat allies in central Bosnia is likely to intensify. Both sides claim towns where equal numbers of the two ethnic groups lived in harmony before the war.

Mr. Izetbegovic, forced by negotiating pressure and battlefield realities to agree to the principle of ethnic partition, never hid his hatred of the peace package.

"The signing of this plan would be tantamount to a collective suicide for the Muslims," he said.

"Either we get a viable state, or no deal."

A glance at the map that was tabled shows that the proposed Muslim state was largely dictated by Serb military gains. The landlocked region would entirely depend on hostile Serbs and Croats who would control Muslim lifelines to the Adriatic Sea and the Sava River.

The capital of Sarajevo, instead of belonging to the Muslims, would be placed under United Nations protection. Muslims also would lose the strategic southern town of Mostar to the Croats.

Only hours after the talks collapsed, Mr. Izetbegovic received much needed support from the United States, encouraging him to hold out for a better settlement.

In unusually stiff terms, Secretary of State Warren Christopher called Thursday on Serbia and Croatia, which back their ethnic brethren in Bosnia, to grant the Muslims more land. He also said the Serb and Croat negotiators in Geneva should "show greater flexibility."

The Croats' refusal to give Muslims a piece of land on the Adriatic Sea was the prime cause of the collapse of the talks.

The Serbs in fact made a painful concession by offering a land corridor to link up Muslim enclaves in Serb-controlled eastern Bosnia. Mr. Izetbegovic said this was not enough and also wanted more land in northeastern Bosnia.

European Community mediator Lord Owen warned that "fragmentation, anarchy, warlords and chaos is not that far away" and said the international community had no alternative

plan to offer to stop the bloodshed. But Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, in a fury as he left the talks, said it may take "weeks or even months" before a new round of negotiations is held. Meanwhile, Croatia has increased the number of regular army troops in southern and central Bosnia, according to reliable military sources.

U.N. officials have warned of a high death toll in Bosnia this winter.

Aid officials had predicted 400,000 deaths last winter, but that was averted by abnormally mild weather. This year, however, there are few food stockpiles, and much less shelter.

There are also mounting fears that Croatia may kick out hundreds of thousands of Muslim refugees who fled from Bosnia during the war.

"If the war continues into the winter there is going to be a disaster," said Ron Redmond, spokesman for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

There are also mounting fears that Croatia may kick out hundreds of thousands of Muslim refugees who fled from Bosnia during the war.

"If the war continues into the winter there is going to be a disaster," said Ron Redmond, spokesman for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

There are also mounting fears that Croatia may kick out hundreds of thousands of Muslim refugees who fled from Bosnia during the war.

"If the war continues into the winter there is going to be a disaster," said Ron Redmond, spokesman for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

There are also mounting fears that Croatia may kick out hundreds of thousands of Muslim refugees who fled from Bosnia during the war.

"If the war continues into the winter there is going to be a disaster," said Ron Redmond, spokesman for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

There are also mounting fears that Croatia may kick out hundreds of thousands of Muslim refugees who fled from Bosnia during the war.

"If the war continues into the winter there is going to be a disaster," said Ron Redmond, spokesman for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.



Egyptian painter exhibits work Talent and hard work bring back a golden, old era

By Ica Wahlbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

FUHEIS — The pharaoh and his consort are holding court. The scribe is dutifully at hand with a scroll of parchment on which he will immortalise the sapient words of the holy ruler.

In a neatly tiled, spacious, well-lit square, guards unworriedly pace up and down in front of an official-looking building. They are dressed in the short white robes of the time and armed with lances. Farther away, in the heat of the desert, clad in white and obviously belonging to a low caste, labourers trace the place of a future construction. It could be a pyramid, a castle or a less royal tomb. The sun is lengthening the shadows of the primitive tools and of the obedient workers, an obvious sign that it is setting soon.

If ever you were fascinated by, or at least curious to know, how life was in ancient Egypt, Hussein Bikar, the venerable painter, art critic, musician and poet (born in Alexandria in 1913), who exhibits his works at the Balka Art Gallery, will give you more than an insight into what you are looking for.

The much acclaimed humanist, who undertook painting the history of Abu Simbel, at Philae, the "eighth wonder" of the world, in 50 canvases, did that while work was under way to salvage the site before the rise of the Aswan Dam lake in 1970.

The photorealist gouaches faithfully reproduce the well-

known traits of the statuary Egyptian art of the antiquity: grandiose dimensions, static attitude and submission to the frontal law, which demands that the body be represented frontally and be strictly symmetrical along the vertical axis that passes through the nose bridge, sternum and navel.

But the vivid colours with no intermediate shades, again typical of the art at the time, also manage to transpose the viewer into the world of millennia long buried under the dust of history and make him actually live with the characters depicted.

The works document life in ancient Egypt with such minute details that for a moment they make one forget that re-

construction of the mode of life at the time is only tentatively presumed and that the artist, after all, is our contemporary and not that of the Sphinx or Tutankhamen.

Building a pyramid, complete with scaffolding, myriads of slave workers and "supervisors" holding plans drawn on papyrus or watching a naval parade of slim row boats, watching Isis and Osiris (most likely) hold council or dancers entertain the pharaoh, are masterfully and convincingly executed images, fruit of research, imagination and love for the country's history.

More actual works recreate the British colonial times, when khaki-uniformed men and Victorian-dressed women

watch in awe the massive monuments, by now a landmark of the Egyptian touristic landscape.

A modern panorama by the sea is as interesting to watch, from a historical perspective, as the artist's ramblings in old pyramid crypts or his rendition of life in old times.

Tombs open for us, frescoes are as fresh as when they were first painted, hieroglyphs intrigue and challenge human knowledge.

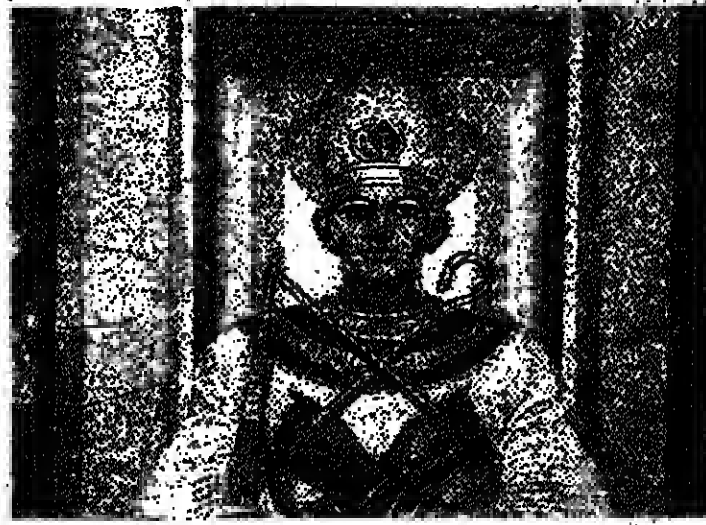
Pots are lined up awaiting rituals of some cult unknown to us or, less occult, holding dyes of different shades, awaiting for the cloth that would adorn the rich.

Headresses, sashes and collar ornaments are brightly coloured in turquoise, yellow, blue or brick red, contrasting with the sober, white loin cloth of the poor or the chaste, white robes attiring graceful, young girls' bodies.

Dark slave girls serve upon the privileged or entertain them. Men, short-haired captives or locals with square cut, shoulder-long hair at the nape and straight fringe, are used for cutting stone, rowing boats, building or guarding palaces.

The artist manages to take us into an enchanting world of diligence and superior intelligence, that of the fascinating Egypt of Khopse and Nefertiti, of times of glory and immortality.

The exhibition, that opens today, Sept. 5, 1993, at 6 p.m., will run until Sept. 25, daily.



One of Hussein Bikar's works on display at the Balka Art Gallery

'Pearl of Adriatic' shines again but tourists not enchanted

By Mark Heinrich
Reuters

DUBROVNIK, Croatia — The "pearl of the Adriatic" has regained some of its legendary lustre as the clouds of war have receded. The wreckage wrought by bombardment has vanished and the bustle of old is making a valiant comeback in Dubrovnik, but the glitter of the walled Croatian renaissance town is not what it once was.

For although the last artillery shell to fall within the circular ramparts jutting into turquoise seas seems a remote memory and Serb forces have pulled back from their positions, western tourists have not flocked back. "This new appearance of normality is a bit deceptive. The streets may look crowded but the only tourists here used to live here or have relatives here," says Blasko Stanekovic, a waiter at the elegant, Viennese-style town cafe.

"There are maybe 50 real tourists in Dubrovnik and I recognise many of them," said tour guide Vesna Gamulin.

Residents fear that tourism in Dubrovnik, like elsewhere on Croatia's scenic Dalmatian coast, will not revive without an end to ethnic wars in a small Serb enclave of Croatia near the Adriatic

and inland in Bosnia.

Dubrovnik, whose architectural treasures were battered by Serb siege guns in a 1991 assault that shocked many worldwide, has come a long way from the desolation of a year ago.

Then, in the aftermath of Croatia's independence war and with the Serbs still lobbying the odd long-range shell into the town to keep it on tenterhooks, every shop and restaurant was boarded up and rubble littered the cobbled pedestrian byways.

There were more pigeons and burnt out vehicles in the streets than people. Residents felt so abandoned that they wept with joy when a former local piano prodigy came home from Paris to give a recital in the bomb-damaged, 14th-century Franciscan monastery.

The seeds for revival in Dubrovnik were planted when the Serbian-led Yugoslav Army (JNA) withdrew from the southern end of Croatia's coast last year under a U.N.-brokered ceasefire agreement.

These were the last JNA forces to leave Croatia after a ceasefire ending its war of independence from Yugoslavia.

A few shells fired by JNA-backed Serb insurgents in southwest Bosnia 30 km inland hit outlying modern districts of Dub-

rovnik early this year but the old town has not been touched for a year.

Croatian military spokesman Luka Glavinja says Dubrovnik's security has improved markedly because the Serbs have decided further attacks will cause them more harm than good.

"It is unlikely they will hit Dubrovnik again because they are good politicians who are trying to gain as much territory in Bosnia as possible from the Geneva peace talks, so why risk another (international) uproar over Dubrovnik?"

The evaporation of military pressure on Dubrovnik has done wonders for local life in the town of 50,000, which is on world cultural body UNESCO's list of internationally protected historical monuments.

Boutiques selling designer clothes, smart restaurants and cafes and currency-exchange offices have reopened along the limestone Stradun Boulevard, stretching between the two Gothic town gates, and in the enchanting warren of narrow streets snaking out from it.

Dubrovnik's famed outdoor summer festival of classical music and theatre resumed this year after a two-year break.

The Stradun Cinema is showing Hollywood's "Basic Instinct" and "Under Siege".

Visitors once again walk the heights of the 25-metre high walls, the immense mediaeval girth of which absorbed modern artillery without problem.

Architectural monuments like the baroque St. Blaise's Church, the 15th century Onofrio Fountain and the Franciscan Friary are boarded up awaiting repairs to war damage pending an International Monetary Fund grant due in September.

Aside from streets pitted by mortar bomb explosions, one or two gutted buildings and a number of facades obscured by scaffolding, it is hard to tell that Dubrovnik was under bombardment less than two years ago.

Yet the true damage runs deeper.

Only about five of Dubrovnik's 35 hotels, whose occupants swelled the town's population three or fourfold before the war, are open. They are occupied almost exclusively by U.N. peacekeeping officers and foreign journalists, like a year ago.

Retail and souvenir shops cry out for business.

These days the Stradun Bookstore sells school textbooks instead of tour guides.

"We spend most of the day sitting around doing nothing. We only have to refill the postcard stand once a week now. Before it was twice a day," said Shop assistant Nina Zifnik.

By Tom Porteous

LONDON — In the Bosnian Information Centre in Lebanon, a young Bosnian woman is trying to sort out her problem. Her Yugoslav passport has run out of pages for stamps. She is applying for a new, Bosnian passport. But the nearest embassy is in Paris. In order to go to Paris, she needs a new passport.

It is a familiar problem for many Bosnian refugees stranded throughout Europe, caught in the tangles of bureaucratic red tape. Maman Nahas, director of the London centre, is trying to find a solution. A letter is drafted to the British Home Office requesting a special travel document to allow the young woman to apply for a French visa so that she can travel to France and apply for a Bosnian passport.

No sooner is the problem resolved than the telephone rings. Some newcomer to England, another escapee from the horror of Bosnia Herzegovina, is asking how to apply for refugee status in Britain. Mr. Nahas goes through the list of papers required like a familiar litany. These are everyday events at the centre as Bosnians become the latest group to join the outcasts of this world.

Mr. Nahas is peculiarly well qualified to be midwife to the birth pangs of Bosnia's collective exile. As a Palestinian, he has lived in exile since 1947 when, as an infant, he was driven — along with his family — from his home village of Ramleh during the war which saw the creation of the Jewish state of Israel. After growing up among the refugees of the West Bank, Mr. Nahas travelled to Sarajevo to continue his formal education. The year was 1966.

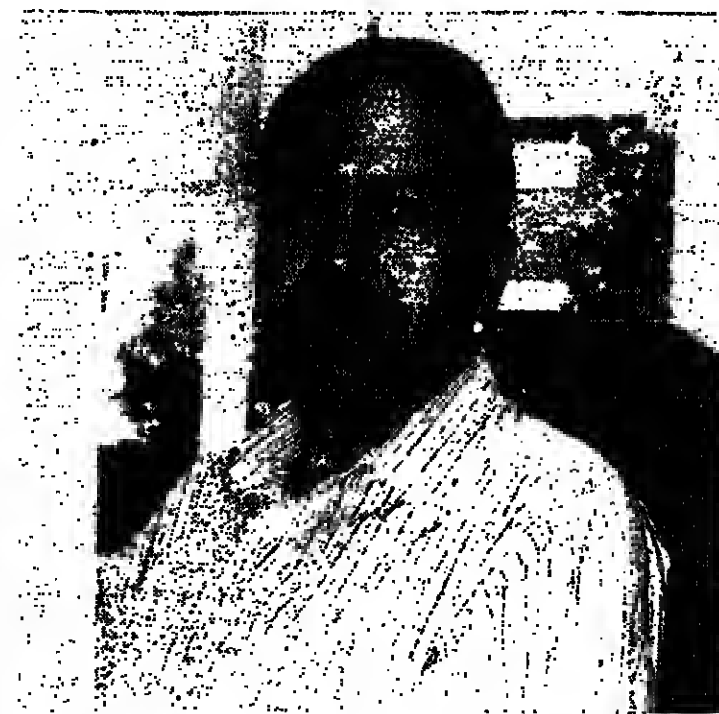
Bosnia was a republic to Tito's Yugoslavia and a strong supporter of the Palestinian cause. Soon Sarajevo became Mr. Nahas' second home. He married a Bosnian and took Bosnian nationality. Having trained as an architect, he became a successful businessman with two import-export companies operating between Yugoslavia and the Middle East.

When the war in Bosnia Herzegovina broke out in April 1992, Mr. Nahas moved his wife and their three children to Britain as a temporary measure, a precaution. But then the Bosnian Serb army started to shell Sarajevo, Mr. Nahas realised that the stay in London would be more permanent: Bosnia was becoming another Palestine; he had been exiled for a second time.

Mr. Nahas draws a bitter parallel between the fate of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians driven from their homes and the fate of Bosnia's Muslims now being forcibly evicted by aggression and the threat of it from their homes and villages by Serbs and Croats in the process known as "ethnic cleansing".

As a Palestinian who had lived it all before, Mr. Nahas realised more quickly than other Bosnians what was happening. He knew that unless the Bosnians acted quickly on the ground and diplomatically, the territory they were losing bit by bit to Serbs and Croats would be lost for ever.

This was one of the reasons why he lobbied — using high-level connections he had developed as a leading Sarajevo businessman — to set up an Information Centre in London. His other motive-



Maman Nahas

tion was gratitude.

"I am doing this because I lived in Bosnia, in Sarajevo, for 26 years," he says. "Bosnia gave me a diploma, a home — all that I have, I have it in Bosnia. That's why I am trying to return a little bit of what I owe to Bosnia by helping the people and the country."

Opened last August as a result of Mr. Nahas' efforts, the centre has a multitude of functions. It gives advice and counselling to Bosnian refugees living in Britain. It helps them in their dealings with the British authorities. It coordinates humanitarian aid to Bosnia. It raises funds for the Bosnian cause. It provides the British media with information and bulletins on behalf of the Bosnian government. It has even set up a small newspaper and organised a Bosnian football team.

So successful, in fact, has the centre been that Mr. Nahas hopes it will soon become a proper embassy. "We have already got the approval of the British government for opening an embassy," he says. "A building has been chosen. Very soon we hope the ambassador will come."

And yet, as time goes by and war continues to make inroads on Bosnian territory, the viability of the Bosnian state becomes more and more precarious. In the diplomatic effort to counter this development, the main task of the Bosnian Information Centre is to marshal British opinion in such a way as to pressure the British government to take a firmer stand against the aggressors in Bosnia. And yet, as Mr. Nahas knows all too well, this is an uphill struggle.

Although there is widespread sympathy in Britain for the plight of the Bosnian government and what it represents, there is also a strong sense that to take firm military action in the quagmire of the complex Balkan war would involve a drawn-out military commitment in the course of which British lives would be lost.

It is by no means certain that public opinion would remain sympathetic once this happened. And this is one important reason why the British government has stopped short of sending troops on a combat mission to halt Bosnian Serb advances.

There is a strong feeling in

Britain that the West is not doing enough," says Mr. Nahas, "but this feeling is not well organised in such a way as to have an effect on the policy of the government. We know that the British Prime Minister, John Major, has left this matter to his foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, and Mr. Hurd is the only person who is dealing with the Bosnia crisis. But he has one attitude, which he does not want to change, whatever Bosnia pays in human life."

According to Mr. Nahas, even the sympathy of western public opinion is not as strong as is sometimes claimed. People see the suffering on television and they may be moved by it. But this does not translate into a sense of political responsibility. It is almost as though simply by seeing what is happening on television the public feels it has done enough for Bosnia. Britain's best selling daily newspaper, The Sun, for example, has had a policy almost since the start of the war not to write about it — the rationale being that its readers just don't want to know.

"We are thankful for the efforts of some of the media here," says Mr. Nahas, referring to a recent week-long series of films on Bosnia by the independent TV station Channel 4 and to a campaign for military intervention in the Independent newspaper. "But maybe we need a campaign comparable to the anti-Vietnam war movement. These days if we ask people to come out for marches and demonstrations, only a few people show up."

But it is not only the West which is failing to provide enough help, says Mr. Nahas. He is also critical of the attitude of the governments of the Muslim World, where people are outraged at what is happening in Bosnia on religious grounds as well as on humanitarian and ethical grounds. "The Muslim governments have the power to stop the war in Bosnia by pressing the West. Let me give you an example. The exports of Britain to the Middle East are about 60 per cent. All the Middle East has to do is say 'Stop we are not going to deal with you until you save Bosnia, help Bosnia.' They can do it. But everybody is watching and doing nothing."

Mr. Nahas rejects as Serbian propaganda the assertion that the

war in Bosnia is a religious war between Christianity and Islam. "The Bosnian government is a multi-ethnic government," he says. "Up until yesterday, Rado van Karadzic (the Bosnian Serb leader), Slobodan Milosevic (the Serbian president) and Franjo Tudjman (the Croatian president) were giving themselves the right to kill Bosnians by saying they were defending Christianity, accusing the Bosnian government of trying to establish a Muslim state in the heart of Europe."

"But today what are they offering at the peace talks in Geneva? They are proposing to give the Muslims a Muslim state. How come? The Bosnian government is against this. We are against this partition of the country. We don't want to create a Muslim state, we want a multi-ethnic state. That's what we are defending in Bosnia... So where is the truth? The truth is that Karadzic, Milosevic and Tudjman are lying to Europe to America and to all the world."

Mr. Nahas believes that it is reason why the West has been indecisive in acting over Bosnia because the different western powers are each pursuing different agendas and interests in the Balkans. These interests are, he says, primarily economic objectives. In an explanation he would certainly raise a few eyebrows in Whitehall and the Qu d'Orsay (French foreign affairs ministry). Mr. Nahas says the French and the British are unhappy about the extension German economic influence Central and Eastern Europe in the end of the cold war. A strong Serbia, which is traditionally hostile to Germany, is seen by the French and the British as the check on German economic expansion, he explains. And Bosnia does not seem to be too great price to pay.

But Mr. Nahas refuses to accept the demise of Bosnia. "The West should not allow it because it violates principles of international law, he argues. And faith on the part of the United Nations, NATO, or the European Community to enforce these principles will set an evil precedent a make the world a more dangerous place to live."

"When people have nothing more, they are pushing them to anything. Europe is witness the creation of another Palestine. It's the same story — but 10 times more dangerous. Palestine is far away, but Bosnia is right the heart of Europe. The West is pushing things right to the extreme, the way it was done Palestine. Who knows what effect will be?"

"All the world is watching: nobody is doing anything," comments Mr. Nahas again. "I am saying to the Bosnians, accept the reality. But what is the reality? It's genocide. The reality ethnic cleansing. All Europe accepting this in Bosnia. The very dangerous because it will be repeated tomorrow in Tajikistan in Kazakhstan, in all Russia. We will stop it from happening? A one who has some military power knows he can use this power to do whatever he wants and nobody will touch him."

"We know that there is no in Bosnia. We know that it is in any strategic position. I want about the new world order. What about morality?" — Wc News Link.

'Pork police' attack shops in name of Judaism

By Sarah Helm

"The Nazis used to measure your skull to tell if you were a Jew or not," says Uri Sernof, laying out "illicit" produce on his chopping board, as the door is unlocked to let another customer into this small store thick with the smell of spicy pig meat. There is little light. Not curtains obscure the clandestine trade and bars protect against intruders.

"We are against this business of defining who is a Jew. It is primitive. They think if we sell pork today the next day we will be selling narcotics. It's brainwashing."

Mr. Sernof is the latest victim in the "pork wars" of Ashdod being fought in the shabby shopping malls of this Mediterranean resort town where in the past two years the population has swollen by a third with the arrival of 35,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union. They care little for Jewish ritual, but have been brought to live cheek-by-jowl with Jews of largely Middle Eastern origin, many of whom are traditional in their practices.

The clash of cultures has turned violent in recent weeks, as the religious have used force to end what they see as one of the worst violations of Judaism

perpetrated by the newcomers: the sale of pork, which they say is barred by Jewish law. The windows of Mr. Sernof's shop were broken two weeks ago by ultra-Orthodox "pork police", who had first tried to burn the store down. Mr. Sernof's car has been burnt and he has been physically attacked. Most of the 14 pork stores opened by the new immigrants have been harassed. One was burnt down.

"It is humiliating. The anti-Semitism here is worse than in the Soviet Union. It is as if we Russians were from another planet," says Mr. Sernof, who immigrated from Kiev two years ago. Vera Moizheshevsky, another pork butcher, says: "Life was more democratic and liberal in Leningrad." She used to be an engineer in the Soviet Union and now pays a \$25 fine each week for selling pork. "I came here expecting a European city. It is wild and oriental. I think they are jealous of us Russians."

Pork sale is not illegal in Israel, but municipalities have discretion to ban it, and Ashdod passed a by-law 20 years ago stipulating that all shops selling pork should be subject to a fine. "Those who eat pork bring illness. They bring worms," said Asher Levy, an ultra-Orthodox Ashdod council member who wants the new

shops closed down. "The Russians have lost their Judaism. They have not immigrated to the U.S. or England. They have come to Israel and must observe our traditions."

The problems of "absorption" — as Israel terms the process of assimilating new immigrants — continues to confound Israel's political leaders. They hailed the arrival of the latest wave of Jews from the former Soviet republics as a chance to strengthen the Jewish state but have failed so far to make the new immigrants feel welcome or valued. Stories of cultural alienation and hardship among the new arrivals increase by the day, as do the accusations by the Russians of discrimination against them by the earlier waves of immigrants.

In Ashdod all the problems are writ large. Until the new immigrants began to arrive, the town was a Sephardi-dominated community, of largely Moroccan and Yemenite Jews, who arrived in the early 1950s.

Many suffered intense discrimination from the already established Ashkenazim, or European Jews, who had built the state. Forty years on, the Sephardim of Ashdod, who have just begun to find their own foothold on the economic ladder, do not welcome the arrival of the Russians, many

highly qualified and cultured, whom they see as competition and who are given money and privileges on arrival to help them start their new lives. And the religious do not welcome their arrival either. Ashdod has always had a large ultra-Orthodox sector, accounting for 20 per cent of the population.

Almost all the Russian newcomers are entirely secular. Under Soviet persecution, few were able to maintain Jewish traditions and in the end most lost the habit or ceased to try. "Everyone ate pork at my home," said Vladimir, who arrived from Siberia 10 months ago

and is now a regular customer in Mr. Sernof's store.

The Russians are determined to fight what they see as religious bullying. And they scorn attempts by the religious to "convert" them to their form of Judaism.

In the municipal elections due in November, the Russian immigrants are planning their own political campaign. "In the Soviet Union it was Communism. Here it is Judaism," says Mr. Sernof. "There you had to be a real communist. Here you have to be a real Jew. We will fight to exercise our freedom." — The Independence.

SAMER AND SAHAR JAWABREH & PARTNER CO
welcomes
The Austrian president
guest of
His Majesty King Hussein
Ahlan Wa Sahlan



شركة البسترا للسياحة والسفر
PETRA TRAVEL & TOURISM CO.

PETRATOURS

الوكلاء العامون

AUSTRIAN AIRLINES

الخطوط الجوية النمساوية

بالارد

Welcomes in Jordan,
the Austrian president Dr. Thomas Klestil,
guest of His Majesty King Hussein

Ukraine, Russia put Black Sea Fleet issue to experts

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia and Ukraine announced Saturday that they had asked experts to draw up proposals on resolving the disputed ownership of the Black Sea Fleet after the Russian president said Kiev would cede its share to Moscow.

President Boris Yeltsin, speaking Friday after talks with Ukrainian head of state Leonid Kravchuk, said that Ukraine would cede its share of the 300-ship fleet to Russia as part settlement of its \$3 billion debt to Moscow for gas and oil supplies.

But Mr. Kravchuk was later quoted as saying that Ukraine "may accept" Russia's offer to buy Ukraine's share of the fleet, but "not decision was taken."

A joint statement issued by the Kremlin Saturday said the two leaders had asked a team of experts to draw up proposals in the next month "taking into account the results" of the summit near the Black Sea resort of Yalta.

The communists also noted that the summit focused on "the question of Ukraine's debt for 1992-1993" but did not mention any link between the fleet ownership and the debt issue.

The Ukrainian deputy prime minister responsible for the military-industrial complex, Valery Shmarov, told Interfax News Agency that a transfer to Russia of part of the Black Sea Fleet would be disastrous for Ukraine.

"Ukraine has ceased to be a maritime power," he said, saying it would urge Mr. Kravchuk not to sign the agreement on ceding Ukraine's share of the fleet.

The Ukraine Navy's press centre refused comment on the agreement announced by Mr. Yeltsin but a spokesman was not pessimistic about a rapid solution to the dispute.

Late Friday, a group of Ukrainian nationalists gathered outside the Sevastopol City Hall brandishing anti-Kravchuk banners,



Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk (left) welcomes Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Crimea (AFP photo)

while a rival group of Russian nationalists shouted "the fleet is Russian."

The two presidents also agreed to continue to "reduce and eliminate nuclear weapons," the statement said, adding that they had signed an agreement on setting up a supervisory mechanism to control nuclear launch sites on their territories.

At Yalta Friday, Mr. Yeltsin said that Ukraine had agreed to hand over all its nuclear weapons to Russia.

According to the Association for the Control of Weapons in Moscow, Ukraine still has 46 SS-24 and 130 SS-19 strategic missiles, as well as 30 bombers with a total armament of some 400 nuclear missiles.

"All the missiles shall be withdrawn from Ukraine, their dismantling and transport will be done by Russia," Mr. Yeltsin said.

He added that Ukraine would be compensated for the withdrawal of its nuclear missiles with supplies of non-enriched uranium for use in its civilian nuclear programme, although a special commission would be needed to work out the amount of compensation for the naval base.

The communists confirmed that the two statesmen discussed "fair compensation" and defined the "basic principles for the use of nuclear warheads of strategic missiles stationed in Ukraine."

Moscow and Kyiv have been at loggerheads for more than a year over the question of the Black Sea Fleet and Ukraine's nuclear missiles.

Kravin has fought bitterly for the share of the Black Sea Fleet, which is worth up to \$80 million, according to experts quoted by the Russian daily Izvestia.

On the nuclear issue, Ukraine had initially said it aimed to be a non-nuclear power, despite having inherited the world's third largest stock of nuclear warheads when the Soviet Union collapsed at the end of 1991.

But Kiev has not yet ratified the 1991 START I nuclear disarmament treaty providing for cuts in U.S. and Soviet strategic missiles.

Meanwhile, Japan and the United States will hold talks in the coming week on ways to help Russia, Ukraine and other former Soviet republics dismantle nuclear weapons, the Jiji Press reported Saturday.

The three-day meeting will open in Washington Tuesday with working-level officials from the Japanese Ministries of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the U.S. State and Defence Departments taking part, Jiji said.

Jiji, quoting Japanese government sources, also said that Japan would explain its ideas of assistance to former Soviet republics in dismantling nuclear weapons and controlling nuclear-related materials.

A cool response in Luanda.

One of the government's top peace negotiators, General Higino Carneiro, told Portugal's TSF Radio Saturday that he felt the UNITA leader was not being sincere.

Gen. Carneiro reiterated the government line that for any fresh talks to be meaningful, UNITA must accept the terms of a 1991 peace talks accord that collapsed 12 months ago.

UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) took up arms again after rejecting its defeat by the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) in U.N.-supervised elections in September last year.

The peace drive has gathered pace with the approach of a U.N. Security Council meeting on Sept. 15 to discuss Angola.

Rebels urge unconditional truce in Angolan war

ISBON (R) — The rebel movement UNITA called Saturday for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Angola's civil war to allow humanitarian aid to reach the country's population.

UNITA said in a communiqué addressed to Reuters in Lisbon that it was also sending two high-level delegations abroad to break the government's increasing diplomatic isolation.

UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi reiterates his offer of an immediate suspension of military hostilities without pre-conditions "that humanitarian assistance be provided to those in need and peace negotiations can be meaningful," the communiqué said.

More than two million people in the fifth of Angola's entire population have fled their homes during the conflict. Many are stranded in isolated towns where they presently receive little or no food aid or medical assistance.

The chief of staff of UNITA's armed forces, General Arlindo Chenda Pena "ben ben" and the secretary for information, Jorge Valentim, would visit Lisbon to improve poor relations with Portugal, the former colonial power in Angola, the communiqué added.

Another delegation, led by acting secretary for foreign affairs, Paulo Lukamba Gato, would visit the island state of Sao Tome and Principe. It added.

Sao Tome, situated off the northern coast of Angola, is emerging as a broker in efforts to restart peace talks aimed at ending Angola's 18-year-old civil war.

U.N. special representative in Angola, Alioune Blondin Beye, flew there Thursday for talks with President Miguel Trovoadia, who is a personal friend of Mr. Savimbi.

Official sources in Sao Tome said Mr. Trovoadia would try to persuade Mr. Savimbi to attend a meeting of reconciliation with Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos hosted by several African heads of state in a neighbouring country.

On Friday Mr. Savimbi told Portuguese President Mario Soares by telephone that UNITA was ready to lay down arms on a date that could be set by the United Nations.

Mr. Savimbi's peace initiative comes as government forces advance steadily on UNITA's self-proclaimed capital Huambo in the central highlands in a two-month-old offensive.

But the peace moves have met

supply by Saturday. Pump stations in black Africa's biggest oil-producing nation have been dry since tanker drivers, who belong to the oil workers union NUPENG, refused to lift petroleum products from Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation depots. No immediate change could be seen in the main city Lagos, where vehicles have been abandoned and public transport severely disrupted. The principal labour union called off its strike Thursday but the oil workers union said their own action would continue pending a review when their executive committee meets Monday.

U.S. shocked by Sandinista challenge

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Clinton administration is expressing shock over attempts by Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista Party to challenge moves by President Violeta Chamorro asserting civilian control over the military. The U.S. representative to the Organisation of American States Permanent Council, Sarah Horsey-Barr, sharply criticised Sandinista contentions that Mrs. Chamorro had no authority to act as she did Thursday. At issue was Mrs. Chamorro's decision to replace army chief Gen. Humberto Ortega and head of the intelligence service, Lenin Cerna. Both are Sandinista officers. Former President Daniel Ortega blasted President Chamorro Friday for bowing to "blackmail" from the United States by saying she intends to replace the chief of the armed forces. "The announcement that the government made yesterday was simply to respond to the pressure, to the blackmail of the extreme right in the United States," Daniel Ortega said at a news conference.

Jackson's Image 'irreparably harmed'

LOS ANGELES (R) — Unproven allegations of sex with a 13-year-old boy have almost certainly cost pop superstar Michael Jackson his lucrative career as an endorser of products, an industry expert said Friday. "His chances for future endorsements are pretty dismal," said Noreen Jenney, president of Celebrity Endorsement Network, a company that brings advertisers and stars together. "It's very hard for me to imagine an advertiser getting involved with Michael now to endorse a product, because the products he's going to endorse, they're going to be products that appeal to the younger market, to kids, to teens, that's his market. That's who he appeals to," Jenney added. Jackson has denied allegations that he sexually molested the boy, and representatives of the star have claimed the accusations are part of an elaborate plot by the boy's father to extort \$20 million from Jackson.

India quizzes China on missile sales

NEW DELHI (R) — India expressed concern over Chinese missile sales to Pakistan, but said New Delhi would not "whine" over the issue. "We have raised this matter with the Chinese," Jyotindra Nath Dixit, India's top diplomat, told reporters ahead of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's visit to Peking next week. Mr. Dixit said India and China were hoping to sign a significant border agreement during Mr. Rao's three-day visit starting Monday "if some remaining points are sorted out." But he ruled out a final settlement of the complex problem that led the two giant neighbours to fight a brief border war in 1962.

U.S. pilot killed in Kenya

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — An American pilot was shot and another American wounded when gunmen attacked a U.N. Children's Fund compound in Kenya Friday, UNICEF reported. The pilot, Jeff Butler 28, was dead on arrival at a Nairobi hospital where he was evacuated after the shooting at a site in northeast Kenya, about 100 kilometres from the Somali border. Robert McCarthy, a UNICEF staff member, was wounded and reported in stable condition at Nairobi Hospital. Meanwhile, some 13 Kenyan opposition members of parliament were arrested in Rift Valley province and charged for trying to enter an area hit by ethnic clashes. Kenyan newspapers reported Saturday that 13 MPs from opposition Ford-Asili, Kenya and Democratic Party were arrested Friday inside an area in Nakuru, 160 kilometres west of here, as they were preparing to address journalists before embarking on a fact-finding tour of Molo south. The government Thursday sealed off the area and declared it a security operation zone.

World religions to meet again

CHICAGO (R) — Representatives of the world's religions including the first meeting of its kind in 100 years will be invited to an even larger conference in India next year to use the power of faith in pursuit of world peace. Sikh leader Sant Rajinder Singh, chief of the World Fellowship of Religions and Founder of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, said the 6,000 people attending the summit of the world's religions would be invited to recruit others to come to New Delhi next Feb. 3-6.

Nigeria fights fuel strike

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's unelected interim government, battling Thursday for support, called in the army to break a fuel strike and reversed top military appointments. The Defence Ministry said today night it had set up a military task force to restore fuel

Sihanouk rejects crown; threatens to cut U.N. ties

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk threatened Saturday to cut off relations with the United Nations after earlier refusing to accept his old position as king, a government spokesman said.

Coalition government spokesman Khien Kanharith said Prince Sihanouk sent faxes from Peking saying also that he will stay in China until he gets a written oath from the National Assembly making him head of state, without elaborating on what form he would like that leadership to take.

Prince Sihanouk was due to come back from his trip abroad, which included a long stay in North Korea, on Sept. 15.

He gave no explanation for his decision but Western analysts said he may be accusing the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) of implying it only accepted the reconstitution of a monarchy if it had a circumscribed role.

The U.N. peacekeeping operation, which organised national elections in May, denied this.

"UNTAC is not opposed to any solutions that Cambodians will want," said U.N. spokesman Eric Falt. "The role of Prince Sihanouk is clearly fundamental. We have repeatedly stressed the importance of his role."

Mr. Kanharith declined to comment on the surprise announcements, saying only that the government side, which includes the pro-Royalist Party headed by Prince Sihanouk's eldest son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, was discussing the matter.

"We are just waiting and dis-

cussing," he said.

Mr. Kanharith represents the side of the former ruling party, the Cambodian People's Party, in the interim coalition after the Royalists won a narrow but indecisive victory in the election.

Prince Sihanouk, king until he abdicated in 1955, surprised observers earlier in the day by announcing he was against the idea of the country becoming a constitutional monarchy.

Just hours before, Cambodia's two co-presidents had said Prince Sihanouk would be king after discussions with him in Poyngyang.

"My father will be king," Prince Ranariddh said after returning from the talks Friday night.

Prince Sihanouk has repeatedly said he would never accept the throne again but he has acquired a reputation in 50 years in politics for abrupt changes of tack which baffle even his supporters.

Prince Ranariddh's Royalist Party said earlier Saturday they would continue to pursue Prince Sihanouk to persuade him to be king despite his calls for a constitution that was neither monarchic or republican.

"The majority of people want to see him as king. And the CPP and other parties also want to see him as king," said Royalist Party spokesman and vice information minister, Ek Sereyath.

Prince Sihanouk's message to the National Assembly and government dated Saturday said that Cambodians had still not resolved the problem of the continuing guerrilla insurgency from the Khmer Rouge, who refused to take part in the elections, and should

not create another serious problem with a controversy over whether to have a monarchy or a republic.

"If we discuss the problem of the monarchy and the republic, we will be responsible for a new division of our nation," it said.

"I beg you to renounce the reestablishment of the monarchy and my nomination as king of Cambodia and to continue the initial project of our constitution which is neither monarchic or republican," it said.

The prince is already unchallenged as head of state, but the extent of his powers under a new constitution remains unclear. Some diplomats believe he wishes to exercise more power as national president.

The new constitution is due to be approved once Prince Sihanouk returns to Phnom Penh.

The radical Khmer Rouge said Saturday that "bad people" representing foreign interests in Cambodia were delaying urgent round-table talks requested by the guerrillas.

Prince Sihanouk had said in a message to the faction's nominal leader Khieu Samphan that the discussions could be held only after the country adopts a new constitution, a date tentatively fixed for Sept. 15.

The Khmer Rouge had urgently asked for talks after a government offensive pummeled the guerrillas out of the northwest province of Banteay Meanchey and out of key positions in Siem Reap and Kompong Thom provinces.

The faction said in a statement released here Saturday that the talks were to have been held Friday.

Azerbaijani parliament votes for direct talks with Nagorno-Karabakh

MOSCOW (AFP) — The Azerbaijani parliament has voted for direct negotiations with the separatist leaders of the Armenian-dominated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, ITAR-TASS News Agency reported Saturday.

Legislators voted Friday night for a motion stating the aim of such talks was a "peaceful settlement of the conflict," which has lasted five years and left more than 10,000 people dead.

Aedon President Geidar Aliyev said that the decision did not mean the end of the Baku government's attempts to regain control of Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave in the southwest, and the adjoining territory controlled by Armenian forces, ITAR-TASS reported.

"We must do everything we can to get these territories back by peaceful means," Mr. Aliyev said.

The vote followed the Armenian forces declaring a unilateral ceasefire Wednesday and calling for negotiations.

As a gesture of goodwill, the Armenian command in the enclave ordered its forces to withdraw from the town of Kubatly and all along the frontline in southwestern Azerbaijan.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian hailed the withdrawal Saturday as a "considerable political victory for Nagorno-Karabakh," ITAR-TASS reported.

The agency reported the

Armenian president as saying that it should now be possible to open a political dialogue with the Baku government.

The Azerbaijani authorities have long refused to negotiate with the Nagorno-Karabakh separatists, dismissing them as rebels and preferring instead to talk to the government of Armenia proper.

But Azerbaijani representatives recently met secretly with a Nagorno-Karabakh delegation. The parliament's vote gives the stamp of approval to such contacts.

Armenian forces have enjoyed considerable success against the Azerbaijani troops this year, capturing two corridors between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia as well as a swathe of territory between the enclave and Iran.

Iranian forces have been in Azerbaijan for several days at Baku's request protecting an area around two dams being built on the River Arax which borders the two countries, an official source said here Saturday.

Work on the two dams at Khoda Afarin and Giz Ghalah-Si, 150 kilometres northeast of Tabriz was suspended amid the fighting in southern Azerbaijan, the sources said.

The hydro-electric dams are a joint project between Iran and Azerbaijan with the costs being shared between the two countries.

The largest dam at Khoda

Afarin where work started last year will be 70 metres (231 feet) high and provide 200 megawatts of electricity to be shared between the two countries.

The second project, 13 kilometres northeast of the first, will be about 40 metres (120 feet) high and provide 80 megawatts of energy.

The sources said workers had fled when the fighting broke out around the Azerbaijani towns of Fizuli and Dzhebrail last month. The Iranian forces were ensuring security at the construction sites.

Turkey again warns Armenia

Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller warned Armenia Saturday there could be war if it launched any action against the Azerbaijani region of Nakhichevan. In an interview published by the daily Hurriyet.

"If one inch of Nakhichevan soil is touched (by Armenia) and there is any attempt to change its status then I will call on parliament to surprise war and to send in troops," she said.

Nakhichevan, which shares 15 kilometres (nine miles) of territory with Turkey, is a small autonomous Azerbaijani republic lying between Turkey, Iran and Armenia and administered from Baku.

Turkey has already reinforced security along its eastern borders especially along the border with Armenia, sending in extra troops Friday and increasing its reconnaissance flights.

Pope begins visit to Lithuania

VILNIUS (Agencies) — Pope John Paul II arrived in the Lithuanian capital here on his first visit to a former Soviet republic.

He kissed the ground after stepping down from his plane at the airport and was greeted by Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas, former Communist Party chief in the republic, and by church leaders.

The Pope will be in Lithuania, which has a large Catholic majority that suffered repression under Communist rule, from Saturday to Tuesday, head on to Latvia Wednesday and Thursday then round up his trip in Estonia.

The theme of the Pope's visit, his 61st trip abroad in his 15 years as head of the Roman Catholic Church, will focus on a new evangelism.

He is expected to urge dialogue with the Russian Orthodox Church, which has traditionally been at odds with Catholicism.

On Friday, Emperor Akihito of Japan began a European tour by paying tribute to Pope John Paul as a messenger of peace.

The emperor, who drove to the Pope's summer residence in the Roman hills after arriving from Japan, presented the Pope with a bronze dove, saying it was "a prayer for peace."

It was Emperor Akihito's first meeting with the Pope since being crowned emperor in 1989. As crown prince, he had been received by the late Pope Pius XII during a visit to Rome in 1953.

The Pope's Swiss Guards,

wearing uniforms designed by Michelangelo and sporting ancient pikes, presented arms as the emperor and Empress Michiko entered the papal palace.

The 73-year-old Pope bowed slightly to Emperor Akihito as the emperor arrived in the papal throne room and the two men shook hands.

A Vatican statement said Emperor Akihito had paid tribute to the Pope's moral authority and expressed thanks for the role played by the Roman Catholic Church in Japan.

The emperor told reporters he had been particularly moved by the appeal for peace made by Pope John Paul during his 1981 visit to Hiroshima, the city devastated by the first atomic bomb in 1945.

The Pope's Swiss Guards,

wearing uniforms designed by Michelangelo and sporting ancient pikes, presented arms as the emperor and Empress Michiko entered the papal palace.

The 73-year-old Pope bowed slightly to Emperor Akihito as the emperor arrived in the papal throne room and the two men shook hands.

A Vatican statement said Emperor Akihito had paid tribute to the Pope's moral authority and expressed thanks for the role played by the Roman Catholic Church in Japan.

The emperor told reporters he had been particularly moved by the appeal for peace made by Pope John Paul during his 1981 visit to Hiroshima, the city devastated by the first atomic bomb in 1945.

The Pope's Swiss Guards,

Typhoon moves north after hitting Japan

TOKYO (R) — Yancy, the most powerful typhoon to lash Japan in decades, weakened and moved north Saturday, leaving at least 45 dead or missing in its wake, weathermen and emergency services said.

Packing winds of up to 90 kph (55 mph), the typhoon was over the Sea of Japan near Akita, about 500 kilometres northwest of Tokyo, at 4 p.m. Saturday (0700 GMT).

It was travelling northeast at a speed of 45 kph (30 mph), the Meteorological Agency said. Forecasters said the typhoon had begun to weaken and move off the spine of the Japanese

archipelago.

They warned, however, that heavy rain and strong winds could still hit wide areas of northern Japan.

At least 31 people were killed, 14 were missing and 114 were injured in southern Japan, which was hit hard by the torrential rain and powerful winds, police said.

After making landfall on the southern island of Kyushu late Friday, Yancy pounded southern Japan with violent gusts and torrential rain.

It triggered 176 landslides, demolished or badly damaged more than 600 homes and paralysed most rail, sea and air links in southern Japan. More than

250,000 passengers were affected by the traffic standstill.

About 20 people were buried Friday in a huge mudslide triggered by rains in Kuge, Kagoshima, on Kyushu.

Hundreds of rescue workers tried in vain to reach the area overnight because of landslides and caved-in roads. About a dozen bodies had been recovered by Saturday afternoon and others in the rubble were feared dead, police said.

The mudslide occurred as people were about to be evacuated to safer ground after authorities warned the area had become dangerous.

Embarrassed brothel forces ballet school move

MELBOURNE, Australia (AFP) — A ballet school here is being forced to pack up and move following a tribunal decision that it is an embarrassment to the brothel next door.

The Administrative Appeals Tribunal heard during a protracted legal battle that the brothel, Bamba Studios, had lost clients after the Sefra Bursin School of Dance opened next door in the middle class suburb of Camfield. It is being released Friday, the tribunal said.

Bamba Studios had been there for 17 years, the two businesses were incompatible and it was "a matter of first come, first served," Bamba Studios had complained about the behaviour of the young ballet students and the tribunal decided it would be inappropriate for the two businesses to try to "coexist" next door.

The brothel receptionist told the tribunal that during the first week after the school opened she had seen three 11-year-old students from next door running into the premises, grabbing mints sweets and running out again. Since that and other similar episodes, clients embarrassed by the off-putting antics of the young girl students had stayed away from the brothel, reducing its business by between 25 and 35 per cent, Bamba management said.

The brothel appealed to the tribunal after the local council granted the ballet school a permit. Bamba claimed it was inappropriate for an educational facility to be located close to a brothel. Ballet school proprietor Sefra Bursin said Saturday the decision had been a disappointment and she planned to set up elsewhere while considering other legal avenues to stay in the same street.

Parking judge in fine mess

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — On her second day at work, the city's hearing officer for parking tickets was arrested for — you guessed it — an unpaid parking ticket. Caciell, Nobell, 38, was arrested on Aug. 17 on a warrant issued nine months earlier for parking at an expired metre. She was given until Sept. 17 to pay the \$13.50 she owes, according to city records. Ms. Nobell's boss, municipal court clerk Ron Zimmerman, said the court routinely checks potential employees for outstanding traffic or parking citations. Mr. Zimmerman said Ms. Nobell was doing a good job and her brush with the law won't affect her employment.

Couple ties knot on U.S.-Mexican border bridge

MEXICO CITY (R) — A Mexican-American couple tied the knot Friday on a bridge linking Mexico and the United States after failing to get the necessary papers to marry in either country, the Mexican News Agency, Notimex, said. Mexican citizen Pablo Alvarado Garcia could not travel to the United States as he had no passport, while Rosa Elia Lopez of the United States refused to pay the 480 new peso (\$160) fee for a permit to marry in Mexico, the agency said. "I decided I'd rather get married in the middle of the bridge," Ms. Lopez was quoted as saying. The ceremony on the bridge International Uno, which links the border towns of Laredo, Texas, and Nuevo Laredo, in the Mexican state of Nuevo Leon, required only the approval of U.S. immigration authorities.

2 horseback riders end 5 year journey

PRUDHOE BAY, Alaska (AFP) — Two horseback riders who left the southern tip of South America heading north more than five years ago ended their trek here on Alaska's Arctic coast. Louis Bruhnke, 32, of California, and Vladimir Fisenko, 33, who emigrated from Russia to France, dismounted from their horses and embraced at the edge of the Arctic Ocean here Thursday at the end of their 30,575-kilometre (19,000-mile) trip. They began their sojourn on Feb. 19, 1988 at Tierra Del Fuego, Argentina, and travelled through the rugged Andes Mountains three times, dense jungles in Colombia and Panama, and traversed 14 countries. They also evaded hungry bears in Alaska but the most treacherous part of their journey was in the Bolivian jungles, where Fisenko was captured and beaten by natives who thought he was a demon. Fisenko had hidden ahead to find a campsite, paying little attention to the possible repercussions of local lore that holds that white men wearing wide-brimmed hats and riding white horses are demons. "They tried to hang him. They thought he had come to steal the fat from their bodies," said Bruhnke, who added that by the time he arrived he found his friend naked, bruised and bleeding.



Reigning world chess champion Garry Kasparov poses between knights at a press conference in preparation for the World Chess Championship starting Sept. 7 (AFP photo)

Kasparov to make first move in World Chess Championship

LONDON (AP) — World chess champion Garry Kasparov won the right to make the first move in his championship match against Nigel Short at a ceremony Friday featuring Russian dolls, giant chess knights and out-of-time trumpets.

Unlike the low-key draws in professional soccer and tennis, "the drawing of the colours" for the Time World Chess Championship climaxed a champagne lunch for 150 invited guests at one of London's most fashionable restaurants.

In chess, only two colours count — black and white.

Even the hors d'oeuvres were black and white, laid out in the pattern of a chess board. Several chess experts were seen making chess moves with their edible squares before popping them in the mouths.

There was a two-stage draw to determine who would play with the white pieces and who with the black when the 21-game match opens Tuesday at London's Savoy Theatre under the auspices of the newly formed Professional Chess Association.

"It is generally believed that the player with the white pieces has a significant advantage in a chess game played at this level of competition," explained New York attorney Robert E. Rice, the association's commissioner.

The first draw was to determine which player would actually make the final draw for the colours.

As world champion, Kasparov was given the opportunity to choose between two identical Russian dolls, carried in on a silver tray to a loud, somewhat uncorrelated fanfare by royal air force trumpeters.

One doll concealed a smaller wooden doll with a caricature of Kasparov. The other had a similar doll-bearing short's caricature.

"This sounds like you," Kasparov whipped to his British challenger as he shook one of the giant red dolls.

Indeed, it contained the short doll.

This gave Short the right to choose the colour. To another ragged trumpet fanfare, waiters wheeled in two trolleys containing large objects covered by red velvet cloths.

After Sort selected one, the cloth was whipped off to reveal a giant, dark and chess knight. It wasn't quite black, but the best the organisers could manage.

Kasparov then pulled off the other cloth, revealing a creamy, greenish giant knight, which gave him the right to make the first move.

Before the draw, Kasparov said the match signified a victory for the Professional Chess Association, which he and Short formed in February when they refused to play their title match for the World Chess Federation.

Despite efforts to destroy the championship and discredit the association, Kasparov said the match would receive the biggest media coverage that chess has ever had. He pledged to try to make chess "a household name."

The World Chess Federation, which has dominated the game since 1918, has refused to recognise the association. It is holding its own championship between former world champion Anatoly Kaprov and Jan Timman of the Netherlands, both of whom lost to Short in qualifying matches. That match started Monday in the Dutch town of Zwolle.

The 1.7 million pounds (\$2.55 million) in prize money for the London match is one of the largest purses in championship chess. The prize money for the Timman-Kaprov match has been cut to 2 million Swiss francs (\$1.28 million).

Short and Kasparov said they were ready to do battle.

"I believe there will be a lot of fighting chess," Short said. "And as they say in this country, may the best man win."

U.S. Open

Ivanisevic latest seed to tumble out

NEW YORK (AFP) — Goran Ivanisevic became the seventh men's seed to fall in the first two rounds of the U.S. Open Friday when he bowed out in straight sets to clay court specialist Carlos Costa.

The 11th-seeded Croatian let slip a 5-0 lead in the third-set tie-breaker and the surprised Spaniard won the match 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) 7-6 (7/5).

"If I can't win after being five-nothing in a tie-break, I don't know what I can win anymore," a disconsolate Ivanisevic said.

"I served really bad. When I need, I didn't put one first serve in. I played pretty bad."

Despite his baseliner's background, Costa managed some stylish play at the net, and he served up just as many aces as Ivanisevic — 16 in all.

The loss of seven of the men's seeds in the first two rounds was a U.S. Open record. The previous record was six set in 1976 and equalled in 1982.

The others to fall were two-time defending champion Stefan Edberg, the third seed, who lost in the second round, and first-round casualties Sergi Bruguera (3), Michael Stich (6), Petr Korda (9), Ivan Lendl (13) and Andre Agassi (16).

However, some other stars continued to advance with almost steady ease despite the stifling humidity and heat at the National Tennis Centre at Flushing Meadows.

Swedish tennis player Mats Wilander, the 1988 U.S. Open champion who played his last Grand Slam in 1991, defeated compatriot Mikael Pernfors in five sets to reach the third round of the U.S. Open Saturday.

Wilander, who retired from full time tennis in '91 and entered the Open on a wild card, defeated Pernfors 7-6 (7/6), 3-6, 1-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-4.

Their match went on court about 10:30 p.m. Friday, and four hours later about a thousand fans were still there for the end.

The finishing time of 2:25 in the morning was one of the latest in tournament history for a singles match.

Most were rooting for Wilander, whose ranking has plummeted to 538 in the world.

Pernfors, ranked 37th, was visibly hurting with leg cramps in the fourth set tie-breaker, but



Gabriela Sabatini watches the ball through her racket (AFP photo)

seemed to shrug them off in the fifth.

Wilander will meet 11th-Frenchman Cedric Pioline in the third round.

World number-one Jim Courier hammered compatriot qualifier Michael Joyce 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 to line up a third-round clash with another American Malivai Washington.

Fourth-seeded German Boris Becker, playing just one day after he completed a rain-delayed first-round five-setter, beat Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek 6-2, 6-2, 6-4.

Richard Krajicek, the 10th seed from the Netherlands, beat unseeded Spaniard Alberto Berasategui 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

Becker, who was none too pleased that his first-round match had been scheduled for Wednesday night, was even more put out when it was delayed by rain until

Thursday.

"Obviously, I was tired, but I beat (Hlasek) in straight sets. I think that speaks well for my game right now," he said.

He said the difference between his straight-set win over Hlasek and his five-set struggle against Andrei Cherkasov, was an improved serve.

As the top-seed, Courier is no doubt the prime target in the men's draw, but he was unperturbed by the spate of upsets.

"It is not that shocking, really," he said. "We are very deep in men's tennis. Upsets are going to happen. It doesn't change anything for me."

"After this round, there will still be 32 good players left."

Eight-seeded Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev also survived, winning his second-round match with American Richey Reneberg

4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4, 6-3.

The match was interrupted in the third set because a bottle flew on the court and shattered. The rest worked to Medvedev's advantage.

"Something happened in the break," he said. "I drank a lot of water, came back out, was kind of disoriented, light headed. I kind of threw away the last three games."

Women's top seed Steffi Graf did not have to play to reach the fourth-round. Her Austrian opponent Judith Wiesner withdrew with a sinus infection.

Graf was glad to skip a match in the heat and humidity, though she admitted that three days without a match, from Wednesday to Sunday, might take away a bit of her edge for her fourth-round clash against dangerous French 13th seed Mary Pierce.

Pierce beat high-serving Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands 7-6 (7/3).

Fourth-seeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez also advanced with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Nicolai Pietrangeli of the Netherlands and number-eight Jan Novotna beat Italian Laura Golarsa 6-4, 6-3.

Injuries, upsets, illnesses take toll at U.S. Open

As the U.S. Open headed into the holiday weekend, it seemed to be operating under siege conditions.

Upsets, injuries and illnesses took their toll on the men's and women's draws. Players were complaining about the scheduling as well as the heat and humidity of the second hottest summer in New York City history. Planes from nearby Laguardia Airport were once again zooming overhead.

Welcome to the National Tennis Centres.

Judith Wiesner became the eighth player struck down by the Open's injury-illness virus when she pulled out of her schedule match with No. 1 Steffi Graf Friday because of an upper respiratory infection.

Sill in the singles competition but hurting was Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere, who withdrew from a women's doubles match when she suffered a torn tendon in her left pinky. She planned to go ahead with a singles match against Sabine Hack later Friday.

Other casualties were Carl-Uwe Steeb and Ivan Lendl, both brought down by knee injuries. Mary Joe Fernandez, Grant Stafford and Christian Bergstrom, who all experienced stomach cramps, Kean Thorne, who had leg cramps, and Jeff Tarango, who hurt his ankle.

A record-tying half-dozen seeded players, including Jennifer Capriati and Andre Agassi, were eliminated in the first round. An two-time winner Stefan Edberg became just the third defending champ in the Open era to go out in the second round.

Top-seeded Jim Courier heeded to a straight-sets victory in punching heat and humidity and then talked about the difficult conditions at the Open.

"The locker rooms are bad," he said. "The lounge is very crowded and there really is no place for us to go and hide."

Some of those still around were feeling grumpy about the scheduling, especially Boris Becker. Because of the strange schedule and two rain delays, the fourth-seeded Becker did not complete his first round match until Thursday night. That meant to win if tournament, Becker would have to play and win seven matches in 1 days, a tall order.

Becker had requested an early start but was not scheduled to start the tournament until Wednesday, a rainout pushed him back another day.

Martina Navratilova also wondered about sitting around. She was her opening match Monday afternoon and did not play again until Thursday night. "Is there a tournament here?" she said. "I've been hitting in Central Park, biding time."

During Thursday's matches, jets from Laguardia zoomed over the National Tennis Centre, distracting a number of players, including Navratilova.

Fin the past, Mayor David N. Dinkins, a tennis buff, has arranged with Laguardia to reroute planes during the Open. No one in the mayor's office could say whether a similar request had been made this year.

Marseille hearing begins

PARIS (R) — The French Soccer League's (FNL) disciplinary committee began its lengthy hearing Saturday into Marseille's alleged match-fixing with Valenciennes.

Defender Jacques Glassmann, who accused the European Champions of rigging a domestic league match against his side last May, was the first to arrive at the FNL's Paris offices.

He was followed by his former teammates Christophe Robert former coach, Marseille player, Jean-Jacques Eydelic did not appear.

Robert, Buruchaga, Eydelic and former Marseille general secretary Jean-Pierre Bernes, who was expected this afternoon, are all under investigation for bribery.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Zamalek outplay Mouloudia

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian side Zamalek scored a 4-0 win over Algerian opponents Mouloudia in the first leg of their African Cup Winners Cup quarter-final clash Friday. Ayman Montasser opened the scoring after just five minutes and Emmamed made it 2-0 eight minutes later. Effat Nassar put the issue beyond doubt by scoring a third just 10 minutes after Khaled Ghandour made it 4-0 early in the second-half.

Henkel pregnant but not retiring

BONN (AFP) — Olympic high jump champion Heike Henkel is expecting a child this year but hopes to be back in competition in time for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, her husband and manager Rainer Henkel announced Friday. "She is 14 weeks pregnant, but it is not the end of her career, she will resume training next summer," he said.

Jackson breaks 13-second barrier for 3rd time

BRUSSELS (R) — World high hurdles champion Colin Jackson became Friday the first man to clock under 13 seconds for the high hurdles three times in a season. Jackson, who reduced

the world record to 12.91 seconds at last month's Stuttgart World Championships, won the 110 metres hurdles by a metre in 12.99 seconds at the Brussels Grand Prix. Only Jackson himself and former world record holders Renaldo Nehemiah and Roger Kingdom have ever run faster.

Dalai Lama against China's Olympic bid

BONN (AFP) — The Dalai Lama has spoken out against China's bid for the 2000 Olympics because of the regime's human rights violations. In an issue of the German weekly magazine Der Spiegel, the spiritual head of the Tibetan Buddhists said: "The international community must give a sign and encourage those in China who are risking their life for democracy and freedom." The religious leader did not accept the argument a Chinese Olympics might bring about a more liberal political climate. "If the world now promises the games to China," he added, "it will show it is indifferent to the regime which rules there." The International Olympic Committee decides the hosts on September 23 in Monaco and the race is between Beijing, Berlin, Sydney, Istanbul, and Manchester. Brasilia, pulled out of the race on August 12, and will make a bid for the 2004 Games.

Johnson and Morcelli reap Grand Prix gold

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Five athletes shared a haul of 20 bars of gold after completing a quartet of wins at the Brussels Grand Prix meeting Friday.

Michael Johnson, Noureddine Morcelli, Sooria O'Sullivan, Maria Mitola, and Trine Hattestad all won their event at the Ivo Van Damme memorial meeting as they did in Oslo, Zurich and Berlin earlier this year.

Organisers of the golden four agreed to share the \$25,000 of gold to any athlete who won his, or her event at all four.

Johnson, the world 400 metre champion, won his race in 44.55 sec, the third slowest of his times in the golden four races. Morcelli, Algeria's 23-year-old world 1,500 metre champion, was reportedly on a \$30,000 bonus to break the world mile record in Brussels. But his time of 3min 47.30sec fell just 0.98sec outside the eight-year-old record of Bri-

tain's Steve Cram. The British record holder finished eighth.

"The gold bar was what I wanted," said Morcelli, who still recorded the second fastest time of the year. "It was too cold and windy for a world record."

Sonia O'Sullivan, the only one-world champion in contention for the crock of gold convincingly won her 3,000 metres in 8min 30.86sec, beating Britain's Yvonne Murray — who had taken the lead in the final lap — by almost two seconds.

Nigeria win world under-1 soccer title

TOKYO (AFP) — Nigeria came the new world under-16 soccer champions when W. Oruma and Ikechukwu Anjo scored for a 2-1 victory to win the title from defending champions Ghana in the final Sunday.

Only three minutes into final the writing was on the wall when Oruma dived for a header which flew over hapless goalkeepers into the left corner to give Nigeria a 1-0 lead.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
© Tribune Media Services, Inc.

PICK YOUR LINE

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 5 2
♥ K 8 3
♦ J 7 4 2
♣ K 8 5

WEST
♠ J
♥ 10 8 4
♦ A K 10 5
♣ J 10 8 4 3

EAST
♠ Q 9 8 4
♥ 7 3 2
♦ A 8 6 3
♣ Q 9 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 8 7 3
♥ A Q J 9
♦ Q 9
♣ A 7

The bidding:
1♠ South West North East
1NT Pass 1NT Pass
3♥ Pass 3♠ Pass
4♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

To fully appreciate this deal, cover the East-West cards and decide how you would play this hand at rubber bridge. Would you do anything different in a pairs event?

The auction is simple enough. Once North can respond, South has enough to insist on game — it's simply a question of where the hand should be played. Three no trump by South on the third round of the auction, however, would have been a better choice. Incidentally, note

North's response of one no trump on a balanced minimum with three-card spade support. We heartily endorse this choice.

West starts the defense by taking two high diamonds, then shifting to the jack of clubs. You win in hand and cash the king of spades, on which West drops the jack. How do you continue?

Since you have no other losers except for trumps, you should take a safety play to ensure no more than one trump loser. You can accomplish that by leading a low spade toward the ten: If West has the queen as well, all you have given up is an overtrick.

As the cards lie, West discards and East captures the ten with the queen. You can win any return on the table and take the marked finesse for the nine of spades to land your game.

How would you tackle the hand if you were playing duplicate? Exactly the same way! The Principle of Restricted Choice states that West's jack is more likely to be a singleton than from specifically queen-jack doubleton. Indeed, QJ is only one of four possible doubleton combinations West could hold which includes the knave.

FLAT FOR RENT FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED

2 bedrooms, living, dining and family room, 1½ bathrooms, central heating, garage and telephone. Location: Sweifish. Contact tel.: 817234

FOR RENT

A super deluxe roof situated in Shmeisani area. 3 bedrooms, one of them master, with wall cabinets, modern kitchen made of oakwood. Big salon, dining room. The floors are Italian marble. Elevator is available. Central heating & electricity are separate. Area 245m² without terraces. Please call, 678501 after 2:00 p.m.

FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

Consists of 3 bedrooms, with master bedroom, two salons, and dining room, 3 bathrooms, 2 verandas, spacious American style kitchen with deluxe furniture. Location: Um Uthaina Al Janoubi. Call tel. 664381 - 670215, Amman.

TO LET

Modern furnished flat consisting of three bedrooms, two bathrooms, spacious salon, with telephone. Near Tyche Hotel. Also there are nice and modern unfurnished flats in Mecca Street, behind Sendebad Gaz Station. Call tel. 678617 for two days from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon & 4:00-6:00 p.m.

VILLA FOR RENT OR SALE

Excellent location in Sweifish. Master bedroom suite, 4 bed rooms, living room, family room and office room, big kitchen and a drawing room. Fireplace, central heating, A.C. in bedrooms. Built-in Bar. B.Q. outside, with nice landscaping. Tel. Installed. Please call 715720 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Deluxe furnished apartment, 2 & 3 bedrooms, 2 bath rooms, modern kitchen, L-shaped salon, colour T.V. telephone, central heating, intercom. Location: Jabal Amman, in quiet & safe residential area: 3rd Circle near Khalidi Hospital, no water problem. Please call tel.: 641345 from 8-10 a.m. 4-8 p.m.

FOR RENT FULLY FURNISHED VILLA (SUITABLE FOR DIPLOMATIC CORPS)

3 BEDROOMS (MASTER WITH JACUZZI), FAMILY ROOM (WITH FIREPLACE) GUEST ROOM, DINING ROOM SPACIOUS ORIENTAL AREA IN THE BASEMENT, DELUXE KITCHEN (POGGENPOHL), ROOM: ONE ROOM & SITTING AREA, GARAGE (REMOTE CONTROL), WELL-KEPT GARDEN. LUXURIOUS FURNITURE. LOCATION: AL RABIEH QUARTER. TEL (678811).

T O D A Y	<p>Cinema Tel.: 671420</p> <p>CONCORD</p> <p>CONCORD 1 MY GIRL CONCORD 2 LAST ACTION HERO</p> <p>SHOWS: 12:30, 3:15, 6, 8:15, 10:15</p>	<p>Cinema Tel.: 699238</p> <p>PLAZA</p> <p>Adel Imam in Wad Sayyad Al Shaghal play (Arabic)</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30</p>	<p>Cinema Tel.: 634144</p> <p>PHILADELPHIA</p> <p>MOBSTERS THE EVIL EMPIRE</p>	<p>Tel.: 675571</p> <p>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre</p> <p>presents a play entitled: Al Iim Nuron</p> <p>A popular political comedy Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomall In addition to other comedians Every night at 8:15 Tickets are sold all day</p>	<p>Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625153</p> <p>ARLAN THEATRE</p> <p>Returns to you Thursday Aug. 26 in the play:</p> <p>Arab Summit Conference</p>
-----------------------	--	--	--	--	---

Bosnia leader says talks may resume soon; Muslims, Croats clash

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic said on Saturday peace talks could resume later this month, as fighting raged on between Muslim and Croat forces in central and southern Bosnia.

"I believe the talks will continue in the week after next," Mr. Izetbegovic told a news conference in Istanbul.

Peace talks in Geneva aimed at ending the Bosnia civil war broke down last Wednesday after Mr. Izetbegovic asked for 34 per cent of Bosnian territory for a rump Muslim state, rather than the 30 per cent awarded under the proposed peace plan.

Bosnian Croat and Serb leaders have said the Bosnian government's demands are unacceptable. Mr. Izetbegovic plans to seek support from U.N. Security Council members on Tuesday in New York.

U.N. chief Boutros Ghali has urged Serb, Croat and Muslim leaders to resume peace talks before fighting escalates.

U.N. officials on Saturday reported heavy fighting between Muslim and Croat soldiers in the central Bosnian town of Gornji Vakuf.

The fighting closed the major aid route into central Bosnia Friday, and British peacekeepers in the area counted 194 artillery rounds fired on Friday.

The southwest Bosnian town of Mostar remained tense as Croat forces appeared to aim artillery attacks at the Bosnian army headquarters in the Muslim-held sector, said Major Iles van Biesebroeck, spokesman for United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), at a news conference in Sarajevo.

About 60 shells landed around the Muslim headquarters on Friday, Maj. van Biesebroeck said. UNPROFOR reported 375 ceasefire violations on Friday around the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia, where Muslim forces are encircled by Serb soldiers.

Belgrade-based Tanjug news agency said Muslim soldiers attacked Serb positions in Doboj and shelled Serb forces in Zavidovici, north of Sarajevo in central Bosnia.

U.N. officials said Muslim civilians recently released from Croat detention camps in southern Bosnia are badly emaciated and appear to have been beaten by their captors.

Roy Wilkinson, spokesman for U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said the civilians "looked like concentration camp victims from the second world war."

Mr. Wilkinson quoted a UNHCR protection officer who visited the men in Muslim-held Jablanica, where they fled after

being released from Croat detention centres in the Mostar region in southwestern Bosnia.

The Muslim men were among 450 detainees released on Aug. 31 from Drecelj, a notorious Croat detention camp outside Capljina, about 20 kilometres south of Mostar.

"Many of the men had broken fingers and bruises to their upper bodies from beatings," Mr. Wilkinson said.

Of the estimated 10,000 Muslim refugees who have been pushed into Jablanica in recent weeks, Mr. Wilkinson said the protection officer said "many people are already begging for bread on the streets."

Jablanica, relatively unscathed by the war, has become a magnet for Muslims driven from central and southwestern Bosnia.

About 1,200 Muslim women, children and elderly have been expelled by Croats from Capljina and nearby Stolac in the previous week, the United Nations reported. All eventually arrived in Jablanica.

Ethnic cleansing of civilians from their homes to create ethnically "pure" territories has been a dominant feature of the 17-month Bosnian civil war.

The process has been accelerated by the proposed division of Bosnia into three mini-states. Relatively unscathed by the

war and blessed with abundant water and electricity, Jablanica has become a haven for thousands of displaced Muslims, many of whom hope to proceed to Sarajevo or some other area under nominal U.N. protection.

The United Nations says as many as 3,000 Muslim civilians arrived in the Jablanica-Konjic region from Blagaj and Mount Igman in recent weeks. Another 2,000 Muslim refugees arrived from Prozor.

The sudden influx of refugees, which the U.N. estimates could total 10,000 people, is straining local food stocks in the Jablanica-Konjic region.

"Many people are already begging for bread on the streets," a UNHCR protection officer was quoted by Mr. Wilkinson as saying of refugees in Jablanica. U.N. efforts to truck relief supplies into Jablanica have been frustrated by fighting between Muslim and Croat forces.

Airdrops, which are being used to feed Muslims in other pockets across Bosnia, could prove necessary if land routes remain blocked.

"It's (the relief effort) becoming more and more critical, especially with the winter coming," said Mr. Wilkinson.

"The situation is getting worse and worse."

Suspects tell Egyptian court of torture in jail

HAKESTAP, Egypt (AP) — Alleged Muslim extremists complained at the opening of their military trial Saturday that they had been subjected to constant torture in prison and deprived of visits from their families.

And their lawyers complained that they were not informed of the charges or even the defendants' names until the trial opened.

The 66 defendants, including 17 at large, are the second group among more than 800 alleged extremists arrested this year for allegedly rebuilding Jihad, the organisation that assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

The group's accused leader, Ismail Suleiman, burst into tears as he told the court how interrogators applied electric shocks to his genitals, threatened to rape his wife and suspended him by his ankles for hours to force him to confess.

He took off his white robe to show the judges evidence of lacerations from a whip across his back.

The chief judge, Major General Hamed Hassan, ordered the release from custody for health reasons of a defendant, crippled

by polio, who claimed he was tortured.

Sami Salama, who walked from the defendants' cage to the bench with the help of two aides, told Gen. Hassan he had nothing to do with the case. He said police arrested him for building a house without a license. At the police station, he said, police accused him of belonging to an illegal group and ordered him to implicate others.

All the defendants face that charge and others, including planning to overthrow the government, possession of arms and explosives, terrorism and forgery of official documents. All could be sentenced to death under an anti-terrorism law passed in July 1992.

As trucks carrying the defendants approached the military camp 20 kilometres east of Cairo where the trial is held, they started shouting slogans calling for Islamic law in Egypt and waving copies of the Koran.

In the courtroom, where they were held in black iron cages, they chanted as the officers hearing their trial entered: "Army beware of the day of judgment and apply the law of God."

Prosecution seeks death in Bush murder plot case

KUWAIT (AP) — The prosecution on Saturday demanded the death sentence for 11 Iraqis and a Kuwaiti charged in a plot to assassinate former President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait in April.

It sought 10 years imprisonment for the other two defendants, both Kuwaitis. They were not charged in the plot itself but were accused of trying to hide the other defendants.

Lawyers said the state security court was expected to pronounce sentences in two weeks.

The 14 men were arrested in April, most of them just one day before Mr. Bush arrived in Kuwait where he is regarded as a hero for forcing the 33-nation coalition that ousted Iraqi troops from the emirate in the 1991 Gulf war.

Twelve of the defendants pleaded innocent when the trial opened June 5. Two Iraqi defendants pleaded guilty, but one of them later said he was innocent.

President Bill Clinton accused Iraq of hatching the plot and ordered an American missile attack on an Iraqi intelligence headquarters complex in Baghdad in retaliation on June 27. Iraq has denied involvement.

The trial was interrupted for long recesses during the hot Kuwaiti summer. When it resumed Saturday, the prosecution and court-appointed defence lawyers made their final addresses before the three judges hearing the case. There is no jury, as is customary in Kuwait.

Charges against the accused include smuggling 80 kilograms of explosives into Kuwait in order to rig a jeep to explode while Mr. Bush was receiving an honorary degree.

Wali Al Ghazali, an Iraqi nurse, told the court when he pleaded guilty June 5 that two Iraqi intelligence agents gave him an explosives-packed belt and showed him how to blow himself up if he were caught or if the car-bomb failed.

Mohammad Al Yassin, the court-appointed lawyer defending Radd Al Assadi, the other Iraqi who initially pleaded guilty before asserting he was innocent, told the court Saturday there was no evidence his client was involved in the plot.

Mr. Yassin said Mr. Assadi accepted 10 pieces of explosive from Iraqi intelligence agents "because he could not refuse as Iraq is a police state."

King extends total support for agreement

(Continued from page 1)

He said other Arab parties to the talks will also address problems as they relate to them and "hoped" that the level of coordination among them will improve.

King Hussein said Jordan did not ratify a draft agenda for its negotiations with Israel because it was awaiting progress on the Palestinian track. He emphasised the agenda was not a peace agreement but a detailing of the issues that needed to be discussed in the context of lasting regional peace.

He said when Jordan was satisfied with progress on the Palestinian track, "we will move towards our own responsibilities, towards ourselves and future."

Asked if the PLO-Israeli accord warranted any change in the agenda, the King said: "I don't think there will be much that requires changing. The subjects are well-known and obviously they will be discussed at the appropriate time."

"I have no worry or concern that the moment is that of embarking on a very serious attempt to achieve comprehensive peace in the area... (and end) a conflict which has lasted for too long."

Asked if Jordan would close the bridges between the two banks to prevent a possible Palestinian exodus from the West Bank and Gaza into Jordan, King Hussein said there is "no plan to close the bridges and I hope there will never be a reason for that."

He said the situation of the refugees would be addressed rapidly and Jordan will be invited to these discussions.

"Any solution will have to address the rights of all," the King said, adding that the accord might provide an opportunity for the repatriation of refugees.

Jordanian officials were this week quoted as saying that 246,000 Palestinian refugees settled in Jordan in 1967, and 57,000 others came to Jordan in 1968 and remained there after Israel refused to allow them back into the occupied territories.

The United States has reportedly informed Jordan that Israel would allow the repatriation of 3,000 Palestinian refugees who came to Jordan in 1968, but Jordanian officials say Israel has not communicated this decision to the Kingdom.

Addressing concerns that Jordan's role in the area could be reduced by the Oslo accord, the King said: "Jordan cannot be marginalised."

King Hussein told reporters that it was premature to discuss the nature of future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, which will be agreed upon when the Palestinians are free to choose what they want.

In response to a question about possible confederation between Jordan and a Palestinian entity, the King said confederation can only be a matter of discussion and choice when people are free to decide freely what their future relationship should be.

However, the King said that Jordanian-Palestinian ties will be strong and "will build upon that (which) have lasted over so many years regardless of the negative aspects that might have affected our relationship."

He said the accord "will not cast any shadow" on the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

The King dismissed suggestions that Jordan has "ambitions" in the occupied territories, saying the only ambition it has is to help and support the Palestinian people.

"In the past there has been suspicions of Jordan's wishes and desires and may be even ambitions (in the occupied territories)," the King said.

"Our ambition has only been one, and that is to help the people of Palestine regain their rights on their legitimate soil. We are the closest to them," the King said.

Asked if the Palestinian accord gave satisfactory answers to the final status of the occupied territories, the King said: "The struggle has been a long one... we have the ability to look back and to look forward. If we look back

we see we look at many, many lost opportunities. If we look forward we look to hope that things will change out of realisation of people on both sides of the divide that this cannot continue."

"Wars end with peace," he said, "struggle cannot continue indefinitely. This is the last chance."

Urging an end to theorising about the accord, the King said Jordan accepts differences of opinion but will not tolerate any threats to its national unity.

Responding to a question on the fate of Jerusalem under the PLO-Israeli accord, the King said Jerusalem would continue to be a concern and that any solution to the Israeli occupation of the Holy City should assure the sovereignty of followers of the three religions on their holy place.

"Details have to be worked out but Jerusalem is obviously a very important element in the whole equation," the King said.

Asked about Jordan's future role in Jerusalem, King Hussein said: "I don't want to open old wounds... I believe that sovereignty over the holy places has to return to those who hold them in their hearts."

The King said he does not have a blue print or a plan that he can propose for the future of Jerusalem but said he can suggest the "essentials."

"That is there is no way by which the holy places can be under the influence or the control of one side to the conflict."

The King said pre-1967 Jerusalem is occupied territory and the question is of Arab rights over occupied Arab territories.

"In the context of peace, we never visualised a city divided again," he said.

Speaking of Jordan's role in Jerusalem before the city was occupied by Israel in 1967, the King said: "When the union existed between the two banks, almost no Arab state recognised our sovereignty over Jerusalem."

The King explained that the Arab and international attitude pushed for the internationalisation

of Jerusalem. The King said an Arab summit was a necessity to examine the conditions of the Arab World, but added he has received no responses for his call for the convening of an Arab summit.

However, he said that Jordan's position was to discuss any tangible progress in the peace process in an Arab summit which can debate it and "hopefully" give it its support.

King Hussein said information relayed to him indicated that the U.S. administration was not also informed of the details of the PLO-Israeli accord before the plan was made public.

"There has been something pretty substantial that has happened or in the process of happening," the King said.

"And I hope and pray that the Palestinians... will demonstrate unity to enable positive process towards what we have always been committed to: A just and lasting peace in this region."

Noting that Jordan has recognised the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people since the Rabat summit in 1974, the King said Jordan would continue to support the PLO.

"We have no right to either criticise the agreement or otherwise," he said. "We have the right to continue on the path that we have chosen all along, and that is full support for the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and their hopes and aspirations."

Even though he said he was "hurt" by the PLO for not consulting with him over the accord, the King said that "this is behind us now."

"I suppose if I did not have details so did not many others and so they were very confused and may be upset with form not substance," King Hussein said.

"And if I did not have all the details because of considerations and concern for the security of the process, well, I suppose I cannot be any different from many other Palestinians who did not know about it," the King said, adding that he was now aware of the details of the agreement to the most possible limit.



TRIUMPHANT: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Saturday speaks to journalists announcing that he had won the backing of the Central Committee of Fateh, the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) faction, for an accord on autonomy starting in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho after meetings of the committee in Tunis (AFP photo)

Damascus Ten want alternate leadership to replace Arafat

By Mariam M. Shalhin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of 10 Palestinian opposition parties, known as the Damascus Ten, has called for a popular conference to elect a temporary Palestinian leadership to replace the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership. They say the PLO leadership is no longer "representative" of the Palestinian people.

Ibrahim Ghosheh, the Jordan based representative of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) told the press Saturday that the call to elect a "temporary alternative leadership" by the group came at Friday night meeting in Damascus.

Addressing a press conference here, Mr. Ghosheh and Hamas spokesman in Amman Mohammad Nazzari stopped short of calling for a military confrontation with Mr. Arafat. "We do not believe in assassinations," Mr. Ghosheh said addressing journalists in both Arabic and English. "We believe that with enough popular pressure against the proposal the leadership will retreat from its position."

The Damascus meeting came after more than a week of debate about the Gaza-Jericho first proposal and the surprise revelation that the PLO had been holding secret meetings with Israeli officials since the beginning of the year.

"The current PLO leadership no longer represents the wishes of the Palestinian people and the Jericho-Gaza plan is a plan for Zionist confeder-

ation," Mr. Ghosheh said.

"This is the opinion not only of the Damascus Ten but also of the majority of Fateh members themselves. The PLO leadership is in the hands of Arafat's Fateh wing and a small group called the Abed Rabbo wing," Mr. Ghosheh said.

"This plan will only benefit Israel. It deletes any mention of Jerusalem, gives the Palestinians no sovereignty over land and allows for control of less than two per cent of the land of Palestine to the Palestinians."

"If the Israelis want to retreat from Gaza it is because the armed resistance and the intifada has forced them to retreat, not through diplomacy," said Mr. Nazzari.

The use of violence or the threat of a inter-Palestinian civil war was dismissed by the Hamas representatives as the "farthest" thing from their minds. "Our aim is the continuity of the fight against Israeli occupation — not the PLO," said Mr. Nazzari.

The Hamas spokesmen said they would continue to support the intifada and armed resistance to counter-balance Mr. Arafat's moves to render them "null and void." Mr. Nazzari and Mr. Ghosheh expressed hope that an envisaged Palestinian police force would not be used against the Palestinian people.

"We hope that Yasser Arafat and his group are not part of the international conspiracy to destroy fundamentalist Islamic groups and that this is not the real task of the Palestinian police force," said Mr.

Ghosheh.

"The Palestinian police force has historic responsibilities towards its people. Let us hope they won't let us down," Mr. Nazzari said.

The Jericho-Gaza plan was part of a larger plan which also aims at "destroying the PLO by encouraging it to dissolve itself." "The current PLO leadership did what Israel did not do — it destroyed itself," said Mr. Ghosheh.

By committing itself to giving up the armed struggle and by announcing the PLO Charter null and void, the PLO was becoming a Palestinian party and giving up the aim of liberating Palestine, according to Mr. Ghosheh. "They are liquidating the PLO, and thousands of Palestinian institutions."

In response, the 10 opposition parties vowed to continue their struggle of liberation and insisted on the right of the Palestinians to return home. The right of return, embodied in U.N. Resolution 194, is believed to have been ignored by the Jericho-Gaza plan.

Israeli settlements and Arab rights in Jerusalem have also been ignored, according to opponents of the plan. Even supporters of the plan point out that too many points in the plan are left open to interpretation.

Neither the Damascus meeting nor the Hamas spokesmen called on Mr. Arafat to resign. However, they did call on the Palestinian peace negotiating team to withdraw from the peace talks immediately.

Sept. 13 suggested for signing

(Continued from page 1)

he will announce the PLO's entire recognition of the state of Israel," said Al Aham Al Massai Newspaper, quoting Palestinian sources.

The PLO chief will also announce "his policy of armed struggle and the cancellation of certain points of the organisation's charter which back violence against Israel," the paper said.

A few hours after the press conference, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will go on Israeli Television to announce "his country's recognition of the PLO," the paper said.

Mr. Rabin will also say that "direct meeting will take place between Israeli officials and PLO leaders" and that PLO officials will be allowed to enter the occupied territories to talk with Israeli officials about issues relating to

the autonomy accord, it added. PLO officials gave no immediate confirmation of such a scenario which the newspaper said was arranged through a third party that was not identified.

Norway mediated at least 14 secret meetings between PLO and Israeli officials that resulted in the draft peace accord.

Mr. Holst, who also met Mr. Peres on Friday night, told Reuters from Paris: "We have talks with many more." He declined to make any further comment.

Gaza development

Mr. Peres and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Saturday discussed how to boost the economic development of the impoverished Gaza Strip and Jericho, spokesmen said.

"They looked at ways and

means of reinforcing help to Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho through UNRWA (the U.N. Relief Agency for Palestinian Refugees) and through the U.N. Development Programme," a spokesman for Dr. Ghali told reporters.

Israeli officials said Mr. Peres told the U.N. chief that Israeli greatly appreciated the work done by U.N. agencies in Gaza, and it hoped to see such involvement increase.

He said an offer aired by Dr. Ghali Friday to send peacekeeping troops to the Gaza Strip and Jericho following an Israeli withdrawal was not discussed.

An Israeli embassy spokesman, confirming that the issue of sending U.N. peacekeepers to Gaza was not discussed with Dr. Ghali, added however that Mr. Peres was questioned later on the subject by an Israeli radio reporter.

Mr. Peres told the reporter Israel would handle its own security," the spokesman said.

Thousands of Israelis march

(Continued from page 1)

opposition warned Saturday that if they returned to power they would not honour Israeli commitments to the Palestinians.

Ariel Sharon, a leading figure in the opposition Likud bloc, said Likud and other opposition parties should "declare that they will not honour... agreements that endanger Israel's existence."

Mr. Sharon, the architect of the 1992 invasion of Lebanon aimed at driving out the PLO, said Mr. Arafat should be tried as a war criminal. "There is no one since the time of the Nazis who spilled as much blood of Jewish civilians as Mr. Arafat," Mr. Sharon told army radio.

Likud party leader Binyamin Netanyahu also suggested that a Likud government would not honour agreements with the PLO.

"We know with whom we are dealing, with a group that never honoured any agreement it signed. And if this will happen here, and I'm convinced it will,

this will certainly not oblige Israel to honour agreements that were broken," Mr. Netanyahu told the radio.

But Mr. Sharon and Mr. Netanyahu said opponents of the deal should not break the law, saying violent resistance could break apart the country.

Eliyakim Haetzni, a Jewish West Bank settler and former member of parliament, said this has already happened.

"It is a process of two different nations crystallising inside the Israeli people," Mr. Haetzni said on Israeli radio. "For one tenth it is peace, for the other it is war, for one tenth it is a breakthrough, for the other it is a retreat, for one tenth Arafat is a new friend, for the other he is a mortal enemy."

Mr. Hussein told a gathering of about 1,500 in Beit Sahour, near Bethlehem, the autonomy deal marked the beginning of a new era.

"It's a big decision and the first step towards the implementation

of Palestinian rights. Now the real political struggle begins."

Mr. Hussein said he believed the approximately 800,000 Palestinians who fled the West Bank and Gaza Strip in Arab-Israeli wars since 1948 would be allowed to return home.

"Our right of return will be implemented in the Palestinian state, which means that people who left in '67 will come back in the initial period of two or three years."

The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Saturday gave its backing to the Israeli-PLO deal.

"The OIC secretary-general, Hamid Al Ghabid, has welcomed the progress made... on Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza and Jericho," a statement by the Jeddah-based OIC said.

Dr. Ghabid described "the interim arrangements as bold first steps towards achieving the goal of just and comprehensive settlement, which would result in the Israeli withdrawal from all Quds Al Sharif and all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories."



Gutsy woman stops man's suicide bid

BRISTOL, England (AP) — A Sports teacher told how she persuaded a suicidal man off a bridge — after holding onto him by one hand as he swung 260 feet (80 metres) over the River Avon.

Angela Stratford, 27, an avid bungee-jumper and amateur parachutist, said she spotted the unidentified man clambering over the railings of the Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol, 100 miles (160 kms) west of London, about 3:15 p.m. (GMT 1115) Thursday. Ms. Stratford said she ignored police shouts to stay away and began talking to the middle-aged man, who acted "really aggressive."

"The first thing I said was 'life is too precious,'" she said. "I got closer and closer and saw that he kept leaning back, holding on with only one hand, which upset me."

Ms. Stratford gradually persuaded the man — who had been standing with two bridge bolts barrier and grab on to her hand. But then he jumped off. Ms. Stratford held jumped off. Ms. Stratford held tight even though, she said, "I had just put on hand cream and my hands were really sweaty."

"My hand really hurt. I've only got skinny wrists but I managed to cling on. There was no way I was going to let him go," she said. She noticed he was wearing a cross and told him "God didn't want him to do this." After much debate the man relented and climbed back over the barrier, collapsing in her arms about 5:30 p.m. (1630 GMT).

Clinton redecorates Oval Office

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton has put his mark on the Oval Office — replacing the subtle shades in the room with striking tones of red, white, blue and gold. The White House offered reporters the first glimpse of the redecorated White House office that has come to symbolise the presidency and the character of each president. The renovation is part of the White House remodeling project expected to cost about \$400,000 according to Lisa Caputo, press secretary for first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"There was restoration work that needed to be done," said Ms. Caputo, noting that "the last one that took place was during the Reagan administration," soon after Ronald Reagan assumed office in January 1981. The most striking change is a new rug designed with 13 colours, to represent the 13 original American colonies. It has a deep blue field emblazoned with a presidential seal encircled with 50 white stars.

Police use robot to standoff with killer

GREENBELT, Maryland (AP) — Police here sent a robot to root out an armed man who had holed himself up in his apartment after allegedly shooting his girlfriend to death. Authorities called in the metre-high (three foot) remote-controlled robot Thursday after they were unable to end their five-hour stand-off with Craig Smith, 22, who allegedly killed his girlfriend with a shotgun and sexually assaulted her friend. The robot entered the apartment transmitting the scene back to police by video and found Smith hiding underneath a pile of clothing, still clutching the shotgun. The robot's mechanical claws pulled the clothing away and when Smith attempted to cover himself again, the robot used a high-pressure water gun to disarm him. Police then burst in and arrested Smith. The police had borrowed the 217-kilo (480-pound) robot from the Fire Department which uses it to dismantle explosives.

Retired gardener strikes it rich with Roman coins